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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Are you in favor of the Legislature repealing the Derivative Beneficiaries Act?

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INSIDE

Double Whammy

Stranded by floodwaters, army soldier Mohammed Hameed was unable to get to the graveyard to bury his 5-year-old daughter.

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New Killers

What's killing us? For decades, global health leaders have focused on diseases that can spread.

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Windfall

Two years after Michael Jackson died deeply in debt, his estate has generated more than $310 million.

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Officials hope Obama will also visit CNMI, Guam in November. PAGE 3

LBC Bank receivership puts OFW depositors in a bind. PAGE 5

Countdown to possible shutdown begins

» As House rejects Senate's substitute budget bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A countdown to another possible partial CNMI government shutdown begins as the House of Representatives rejected yesterday afternoon the Senate's substitute budget bill that cut and reallocated over $2 million among agencies and sets aside $2 million more in new income, barely two weeks before the start of fiscal year 2012 on Oct. 1.

Cabrera

The House and Senate immediately moved into a conference committee, which is expected to settle the budget differences between the two houses of the Legislature before the shutdown provision of the Constitution kicks in.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) separately said they're hoping the committee could come up with a

See SHUTDOWN on Page 4

Opening of new dialysis center OK'd

» DPH closes old dialysis unit today

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After several years of waiting, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services finally approved the opening of the Commonwealth Health Center's new Hemodialysis Center, according to a Department of Public Health announcement yesterday.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez and acting deputy secretary for hospital administration Esther Muna said that DPH received the go-ahead from Medicare on Monday, Sept. 12, after a three-day inspection and dry run.

Medicare, according to the two of-

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees chair Sixto Igisomar, first row-right, Fund administrator Richard Villagomez, second row-right, retirees and others sit in the House of Representatives chamber yesterday afternoon after appealing to lawmakers for a repeal of Public Law 17-51, which allows Fund beneficiaries to sue on behalf of the pension program if the board refuses to bring such legal action. Within days of the law's passage, six money managers and consultants have already quit their contracts with the Fund in light of added liabilities and uncertainties.

Retirees, Fund ask House to pass bill repealing derivative suit law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Retirees and the NMI Retirement Fund appealed yesterday to House of Representatives members to pass a bill that will repeal a one-week-old law allowing Fund beneficiaries to sue on behalf of the pension program if the board refuses to bring such legal action, even as six money managers and consultants have already quit their contracts with the Fund within days of Public Law 17-51's signing on Labor Day.

After the House rejected a Senate-amended budget bill yesterday afternoon, Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) called for recess until 9am today to tackle other measures, one of which could be House Bill 17-220.

House FlooR Leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), author of the bill repealing

See RETIREES on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

- Fisher, Richmond also break ties with Fund.

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HR Matters: What does 'employment-at-will' mean? Can I agree with an employee to hire him or her without a contract and if I do this can I terminate the employment at any time, without cause or notice?

See story on Page 13

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Local

Fisher, Richmond also break ties with Fund

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Two more service providers of the NMI Retirement Fund terminated their contracts with the agency, citing the ill effects of the newly signed Public Law 17-51 or the Beneficiaries Derivative Act.

Fisher Investments and Richmond Capital both submitted their resignation yesterday to Fund administrator Richard Villagomez.

This brings to six the number of contracts cancelled and terminated with the Fund, just over a week after the law's passage on Sept. 5.

Money managers Stralem & Company and BlackRock Inc., actuary consultant Buck Consultants, and investment consultant Wilshire Associates preceded the resignations of Fisher Investments and Richmond Capital.

All four money managers gave the Fund 30-day notices while Wilshire Associates promised to assist the Fund during the transition period.

Wilshire was hired only in October 2010, replacing Merrill Lynch. The former was sued by the Fund board for allegedly giving it "bad advice," resulting in significant losses in the program's investments.

Jeff Silk, vice chairman of Fisher Investment, tendered the company's resignation effective Oct. 13, based on its letter to the Fund yesterday. The others also postdated their resignations to next month.

Public Law 17-51 was tackled during a House session yesterday, after a bill was offered proposing to repeal the newly enacted law.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez, in an email yesterday, said he was pleased to see the presence of retirees at the House session and is hopeful that the Commonwealth Retirees Association can get together and collectively voice their concerns.

He disclosed that the remaining eight money managers may also end their relationship with the Fund, with the exception of the Fund's custodian, Bank of Hawaii.

The Fund is thinking of transferring its liquidated assets to mutual funds.

Money managers will be gone anyways

Meantime, a supporter of the newly signed law and lawyer for some retirees, Michael Dotts, voiced his opposition to the proposed repeal of the measure.

"It is right for retirees to be concerned about the money managers quitting the Fund this

See FISHER on Page 4

Fund asks federal court to hold Jorgensen, Rayphand liable to pay attorneys' fees

The NMI Retirement Fund has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold Commonwealth Retirement Association board member Sapuro Rayphand and his counsel Bruce Jorgensen liable to pay the Fund's attorneys' fees in answering to their court action "that was completely devoid of merit."

Rayphand, represented by Jorgensen, has notified the District Court that he wants the Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government to be removed from the Superior Court and transferred to the federal court.

The Fund's legal counsel Braddock J. Huesman, in a motion to remand, asserted that Rayphand's notice of removal is defective as CRA is not a defendant in this matter and thus cannot remove the case.

Huesman said even if CRA was considered a defendant for removal purposes, not all defendants have agreed to removal.

Huesman also pointed out that there is no federal question and that even if the District Court finds federal jurisdiction, the notice of removal was untimely.

The Fund's lawyer said the notice of removal has forced the Fund to incur further time, money and energy at a time when it can least afford to lose its focus.

Huesman asked the court that this case be remanded to the Superior Court.

"The state of Fund finds itself in is tragic. Years and years of meaningless political promises coupled with events beyond the Commonwealth's control have conspired to place the Fund in a dire position," he said.

Adding further injury, Huesman said, are frivolous claims and lawsuits against the Fund itself, "which are only serving to impede the Fund from protecting its members to the fullest extent possible," he said.

Jorgensen recently filed a notice informing the District Court of his forthcoming submissions in support of consolidating Rayphand's with the pending lawsuit filed by unnamed retirees against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other co-defendants.

Jorgensen also served as counsel for the unnamed retirees.

Rayphand stated that it has been more than two years now since Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo rendered a $230 million judgment in the case yet there has been little, if any, meaningful steps toward enforcement of that judgment. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Chinese association to hold 'culture night' tonight

The Chinese Association of Saipan is inviting the community to take part in the "Chinese Culture Night" to be held tonight from 6pm to 9pm at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Tonight's celebration will feature special performances from Beijing artists who will exhibit "Biàn Lian" or "Face-Changing," an ancient Chinese dramatic art that is part of the more general Sichuan opera.

"Biàn Lian" performers wear brightly colored costumes and move to quick, dramatic music. They also wear vividly colored masks which they change within a fraction of a second.

The "Chinese Culture Night" will also feature "Gong Fu Chá," a thrilling show based on the tea preparation approach. The ceremony was originally popularized by teashops carrying tea of Chinese or Taiwan origins and by tea connoisseurs as a way to maximize the taste of a tea selection. Nowadays, this ceremony has become a form of entertainment in various fairs and tourist programs.

The Beijing performers are scheduled to present from 7pm to 8pm. Tonight's festivity will also feature unique cultural performances and exhibitions by members of the Chinese community on island as well as special booths which will open at 6pm and feature Chinese calligraphy, cultural items, artwork, photo booths, and games for children.

The program will kick off with the traditional Lion Dance at 7pm. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

IN MILLARDS' TAX CASE

NMI identifies 26 persons, entities used allegedly as dummies

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has established that ComputerLand Corp. retail chain founder William H. Millard and his wife Patricia allegedly have sought to conceal ownership of their assets in the U.S. by storing their assets in the names of family members, associates, and certain front companies.

Millard

Attorney Michael S. Kim, in his declaration filed last week in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, disclosed that the front companies are managed and run by the Millard couple's adult children and/or their personal associates.

Kim is a member of the New York-based law firm Kobre & Kim LLP that the Fitial administration tapped in 2010 in hopes of collecting over $118 million in unpaid income tax plus interest from the Millard couple.

Kim filed his declaration in support of the CNMI government's motion asking the District Court to issue a letter requesting the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands to allow the Commonwealth take testimony and obtain evidence in aid of the proceedings.

The Millards left Saipan in August 1990 and their whereabouts have been unknown, until recently when the law firm and investigators tracked the couple on Grand Cayman Island in the western Caribbean.

Kim named 16 persons that the Commonwealth believes, based on documents and information, who have received funds from the Millards and or assisted the couple in the concealment of funds and assets, and or may have information on the location of the couple's assets.

The individuals are the Millards' daughters Barbara Logan, Ann Keidser, and Elizabeth Judith, and five grandchildren—Eric Logan, Cassandra Logan, Maxwell Wichman Keidser, Robert Judith, and Jacqueline Judith.

The eight other individuals are Michael Judith, Paul Logan, Curtis Keidser, Kathleen A. Gillespie, Terry M. Giles, Karen C. Owen, Jim Jiminez, and Antonio S. Guerrero.

Kim said Guerrero, a CNMI citizen, has purchased properties on behalf of the Millards in the CNMI, and then provided the couple with longterm leases on these properties in the late 1980s.

Kim said the Millards, not being CNMI citizens, were barred from owning property directly under Commonwealth property ownership laws.

Kim also named 10 entities that the Commonwealth believes have received or channeled funds from the Millards and or assisted the couple in the concealment of funds and assets, and or may have information on the location of the assets.

The entities are Vizco LLC in Florida, The Millard Foundation in California, The Lifestar Institute in California, Capital Properties Ltd. in Cayman Islands, Calypso Business Logistics Inc. in Florida, Silverbox Entertainment LLC in Florida, Maximum Enterprises Inc. in Cayman Islands, Maximum Enterprises Ltd. in Cayman Islands, Bamba Ltd. in Cayman Islands, and The Diamond Trust in the CNMI.

Officials hope Obama will also visit CNMI, Guam in November

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo invited President Barack Obama yesterday to visit Guam during his scheduled trip to Asia-Pacific in November, while some CNMI officials see another opportunity to also invite the president to the Commonwealth.

Obama twice cancelled his visit to Guam last year en route to his visits to the Asia-Pacific region, because of pressing issues in the U.S. that included healthcare reform and a huge oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

"The people of Guam would welcome the opportunity to host their President, and we hope your schedule can accommodate this request," Bordallo said in her one-page Sept. 13 invitation letter to Obama.

CNMI officials said yesterday that they, too, would have liked the U.S. president to visit the CNMI.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, according to press secretary Angel Demapan, in fact mentioned this to the president at the National Governors Association meeting in Washington, D.C. in February.

"The Fitial administration would very much like the president to visit the CNMI," Demapan said.

The press secretary said the governor also invited Vice President Joe Biden during one of their conversations at the White House.

Bordallo

"At this time, it is still unknown whether the CNMI, Guam or other additional stops will be included in the President's travel plans," he added.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), who authored an adopted Senate resolution last year formally inviting the president to the CNMI, said yesterday he might again introduce another resolution now that Obama is going to visit the Asia-Pacific region.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) said the CNMI government should also formally invite the president to visit the islands.

"It would be an honor for the CNMI. And the president can get to know more about the CNMI," he said.

Sablan said he was still the immigration director when former President Jimmy Carter, his family, and staff had a lay over on Saipan for jet refueling.

"We could be in the far end of the United States but for a sitting president to visit, that would be historic," he said.

Sablan said the CNMI is only some 30 minutes away from Guam via commercial plane.

Obama will be visiting Australia in November, in connection with the 60th anniversary of the security treaty between the United States, Australia, and New Zealand that month.

The president is also expected to attend Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings in Honolulu, Hawaii where he's born, and an East Asia summit in Indonesia.

Bordallo, in a statement yesterday, said the president was scheduled the visit Guam twice last year, but national issues required him to postpone both his visits to the region and remain in Washington, D.C.

"I am hopeful that the President's schedule can accommodate a visit to Guam in order to discuss matters of importance to our island including our strategic importance and impact of the military build-up on our community," Bordallo said.

Businessman plans to construct solar farm

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A businessman is applying for a loan guarantee with the Commonwealth Development Authority to support his alternative energy project.

Erik Van Der Maas, who owns the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, attended the CDA board meeting yesterday to present his solar farm project.

Van Der Maas revealed his plans to construct a solar farm on the parking lot of the Marianas Business Plaza.

He said the project involves the construction of steel structure to house 2,100 solar panels that would produce about 90,000 kilowatts.

According to Van Der Maas, the technology is being utilized in various countries, including New Zealand, Italy, and even Palau.

"CUC is all in support of it because it's alternative power," Van Der Maas told the CDA board of directors.

According to Van Der Maas, the project will cost roughly $1.5 million and will bring about an income of $40,000.

"I'm applying for a loan with a major bank," said Van Der Maas. "CDA, through its new program with MPLT and the governor's office, will help with the loan guarantee to that bank.

Oscar Camacho, CDA loan manager, said Van Der Maas wants to avail of loan guarantee through the State Small Business Credit Initiative.

Created under the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, SSBCI was funded with $1.5 billion to strengthen state programs that support lending to small businesses and small manufacturers in states and territories across the nation.

SSBCI will allow states to build on successful models for state small business programs, including collateral support programs, Capital Access Programs, and loan guarantee programs.

"Erik has been very diligent in following up on progress with the SSBCI application," added Camacho.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROSA TUDELA CABRERA BANIK, Petitioner, vs. TAPAN KUMAR BANIK Respondent,	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11 - 0377 SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 500818 Chalan Kanoa Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 27th day of August, 2011

/s/ Clerk of Court

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DURING CONFERENCE IN BUSINESSMAN'S TAX REFUND SUIT

Munson insists only person with full settlement authority allowed to attend

U.S. District Court for the NMI senior judge Alex R. Munson has stood pat on his earlier decision that a person with authority to recommend any settlement reached by the parties to the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation must be present at the settlement conference in businessman John K. Baldwin's federal tax refund lawsuit against the United States of America.

Munson denied the U.S. government's emergency motion to excuse the government from the requirement that person with full settlement authority attend the settlement conference in Baldwin's lawsuit.

Munson said the emergency motion seeks reconsideration of his Sept. 9, 2011 order that denied such request.

"However, it does not point to any new evidence, change in law, or clear error that would warrant reconsideration. Rather, it repeats arguments the court has already considered and rejected," the judge said.

U.S. Department of Justice Tax Division's trial attorney Lauren M. Castaldi stated in the emergency motion that due to the amount at issue in Baldwin's suit, "settlement proposals may involve a concession of more than $2 million."

Castaldi asked the court to allow him and trial counsel for the U.S. Jeremy Hendon to personally appear at the settlement conference and Deborah Meland, the chief of the Tax Division's Office of Review, will be available by phone. Castaldi stated, among other things, that only by centralizing decision-making in these cases, can the Internal Revenue Service and the DOJ hope to be able to treat all taxpayers similarly, so that the burdens of government are fairly shared by all.

The settlement conference in Baldwin's suit is currently scheduled for Oct. 17, 2011 in Idaho before Munson.

In his Sept. 9 order, Munson said in 29 years of facilitating settlement negotiations, he has never brought about a settlement agreement without having present on each side a person with full authority to reflect such an agreement. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

RETIREES

From Page 1

PL 17-51 in its entirety, said he's confident that his bill will pass the House.

"I feel that some members have seen the ill effects of P.L. 17-51 and will support HB 17-220," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

During yesterday's session, NMI Retirement Fund administrator Richard Villagomez, Fund board of trustees chair Sixto Igisomar, retirees Donna Cruz and Ruth Tighe personally asked members to repeal the new law.

"You can actually make a difference to undo the tear and anomaly that is now Public Law 17-51," Igisomar told lawmakers. "Prior to this law's enactment, we spoke of uncertainties. Today, we are looking at the same consequences that we predicted before you."

Villagomez, in his address to House members, said there are now at least six money managers and consultants have terminated their contracts with the Retirement Fund "in light of the added liabilities and uncertainties brought on by PL 17-51."

He said a Tuesday letter to the speaker stated only four that have sent termination letters: actuary Buck Consultants (Sept. 12 termination letter); investment consultant Wilshire Associates Inc. (Sept. 9 termination); money manager Stralem & Co. Inc. (Sept. 6 termination letter); and money manager BlackRock Inc. (Sept. 13 letter stating it will not enter contract).

Villagomez said two more were added yesterday morning: money managers Fisher Investments and Richmond Capital.

"Proponents of P.L. 17-51 might argue that if the investment-related firms are leaving, it is because they have something to hide or are afraid to be sued. These firms were selected through an RFP process and compared to other respondents. With Fisher Investments, for example, there were over 30 other firms hat responded to that RFP and all of them were scrutinized to determine the best candidate," he told lawmakers.

SHUTDOWN

From Page 1

compromise budget bill soon.

"I am hoping they (conference committee) will come up with something by the end of next week, Sept. 23," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune.*

But the eight-member conference committee led by House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) isn't expected to meet formally as one panel until Monday, Sept. 19.

Taimanao, however, said she and Basa will begin meeting in the soonest possible time.

'Unrealistic'

From hereon, government employees are counting the days until the joint conference committee comes up with a compromise $102-million spending package that both houses can pass and send to the governor before Oct. 1.

"Every day that the House and Senate do not come to an agreement (on the budget) is another day toward that dreaded day of shutdown," Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) said.

Sablan voted "yes" to a motion to reject the Senate's substitute budget bill, citing "multiple concerns" in the latest version of the measure including "zeroing out" the operational budget of all lawmakers.

"I think that members can accept zeroing out the leadership account but not the individual lawmakers' operational account… The Legislature is a Constitutionally-created institution that needs funds to operate… I hope people sit back and reassess where we are now," he added.

He also said the results of the 2010 Census pointed to a decrease in population in the three major islands, yet the Senate wants to increase the budgets for Tinian and Rota, for example, by $362,719 and $250,000, respectively, compared to the House's proposal.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said he voted "yes" to rejecting the Senate substitute budget bill because it's "very unrealistic."

"You might as well close the offices of the Legislature if you're not going to give an operational budget," he said.

He said he has no problem giving more to the Public School System and Northern Marianas College but only if PSS and NMC would also show that they are trying to live within their means.

Palacios cited PSS conferences and events which he said are held in hotels instead of using government venues such as the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"If you are holding your conference in Laolao Bay [Golf Resort], I know that's not free. Somebody is paying for that, maybe the taxpayers," he said, as he extends his challenge to all agencies to start using government facilities for their meetings and other events if possible.

Rejection vote

House Floor Leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) made a motion to reject the Senate's substitute budget bill.

Of the 19 members present, 12 voted "yes" to reject the Senate version of the budget bill and seven voted "no" to its rejection. Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) was the only one absent.

The 12 who voted "yes" to reject the Senate's version of the budget bill were Basa, Camacho, Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Sablan, and Cabrera.

The seven who voted against rejecting the Senate substitute budget bill and who, in essence, accepted the senators' proposals, were Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), and House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan).

Torres said the only reason why he voted "no" to the Senate bill was "to call the Senate's bluff" on zeroing both the leadership account and the individual lawmakers' allocations. But he said he knew the Senate version will be rejected easily at the House.

Besides Basa, the other House conferees that the speaker appointed were Demapan, Fred Deleon Guerrero and Yumul.

During the session, Cabrera asked whether Yumul was still interested in joining the conference committee after voting "no" to the motion to reject the Senate's version of the budget bill. Yumul said "yes."

Conner said he thinks that for the conference committee to be more representative of all the islands, the House conferees should include the representatives from Rota and Tinian.

"All the House conferees are from Saipan, unlike the Senate where the three islands are represented," Conner added.

Yumul said he would have wanted the budget bill to be sent to the governor right away, considering that the governor has 20 days to act on it.

The House minority leader, for his part, said there's pressure for the conference committee to work out a compromise bill.

"We should have learned our lesson already," he said, referring to last year's partial government shutdown because of a budget deadlock between the House and Senate.

The Senate president, meanwhile, said his appointees to conference committees remain the same, led by Taimanao, along with Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Preparation begins

Press secretary Angel Demapan reiterated that as early as August, the Fitial administration started preparing for a possible shutdown.

"While we certainly would like to avoid another shutdown, we will continue to take this approach so long as a budget remains to be enacted. Nonetheless, the governor and lieutenant governor would like to see our lawmakers come to terms on a budget that is realistic and sufficient to sustain government operations," he said.

Demapan said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos are hoping that the Legislature would avoid a shutdown.

"Many families are already struggling with the reduction in work hours; a shutdown would just compound these families' burdens more," he added.

The Senate's version of the budget bill cuts $343,351 from the Offices of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor and the "Total Other Offices of the Governor and Lt. Governor."

Demapan said the administration's allocations, as proposed in the governor's proposal, already takes into account all austerity measures.

"Any further reductions would eventually hinder the departments and activities under the executive branch," he added.

Any partial government shutdown will result in the temporary unemployment of over 1,000 government employees, most of them already dealing with a 16-hour pay cut biweekly and delayed payrolls since last year.

The Senate's substitute budget bill cuts the funds of the Legislature and the Executive Branch by over $2 million and moved the amount to PSS, NMC, Rota and Tinian programs, among other entities.

Besides the reallocated funds, PSS and NMC also got an additional $1 million from senators who incorporated future collections from the "$150 CNMI education funding fee" under the federalization law.

DIALYSIS

From Page 1

ficials, certified 25 hemodialysis stations and two isolations at the new unit. CHC had 19 stations certified at the old unit, which will be officially shut down today, Sept. 15.

"We just completed our exit interview with Medicare surveyors that have been here for the past three days to inspect the new hemodialysis facility. As of Sept. 12, 2011, they allowed us to start operating the new hemodialysis facility with only half of the total number of patients on hemodialysis being dialyzed in the new facility. As of today, they have given us permission to move the entire hemodialysis program into the new facility. Starting tomorrow, the old facility will be shut down and all dialysis treatment will take place at the new dialysis center," said Villagomez.

He acknowledged Dr. Sherleen Osman and her team at the hemodialysis unit for spearheading the patients' transfer.

Villagomez, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* on Tuesday, said that half of the dialysis patients being treated at the old dialysis center were transferred to the new facility on Tuesday as part of the Medicare dry run.

"We started on Tuesday treating our dialysis patients in the new facility and we have already transferred half of our dialysis patients from the old hospital and they were so happy," said Villagomez, who visited and talked with patients during their treatment.

There are currently 159 hemodialysis patients in the Commownealth—double the 80 that were being treated in 2001.

Of the current number, 107 are being treated at the CHC while 52 are with a private hemodialysis clinic on island.

In Tuesday's dry run, Villagomez said that nine patients were treated each shift. The dialysis center has three shifts: morning, afternoon, and evening.

"The dry-run went very smoothly and we're very pleased," he said.

Villagomez said he already reported to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial the progress at the facility and a formal ceremony will be held at a later date.

There are a total of 38 stations in the new dialysis center, estimated to treat 27 patients per shift each day.

In an early interview with Karlo Reyes, unit manager of the CHC hemodialysis unit, he said they are ready for the full operation of the new center with 28 nurses, one dietician, one social worker, and a part-time nephrologist. These personnel will work in three shifts every day from 5am through 9pm. A dialysis patient receives an average of four to five hours of treatment for every shift, including preparation.

FISHER

From Page 2

week. But the legislation that became P.L. 17-51 has been under debate in the Legislature for a year. It was no secret. Yet not a single money manager ever spoke to my law firm or the Hawaii or Florida law firms I am working with about any concerns they had with the bill. Those money managers seemed to have only spoken to the Fund. If there are concerns with certain provisions of the bill that the money managers have, maybe those provisions can be fixed without taking back from the retirees the right to protect their own retirement payments. There is no need to throw out the entire law that gives real rights to retirees if there is a problem that can be fixed," he said yesterday.

Because of projections that the pension plan will only last three more years, based on its current asset value, Dotts said in three years all money managers will be gone anyhow.

"If the rebate is reduced that might get stretched to five years. There were 12 money managers last week and now the Fund is down to eight and perhaps next week it will be down to four. But the assets of the Fund have also dropped from over $500 million to $271 million. Those assets are going to continue to slide down to zero over the next few years," he added.

LBC Bank receivership puts OFW depositors in a bind

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Mercy Garcia, a mother of a freshman college student in the Philippines, had planned Saturday morning to remit $200 to her daughter for her second trimester tuition, which was due that day. When she went to LBC's Garapan branch, Garcia was told that their system was offline.

Garcia got concerned and stressed out as well upon finding out that her daughter, who's taking up a course in International Relations, could not withdraw the $300 that Garcia had previously sent her.

"Actually, my daughter was still able to withdraw some of the money on Thursday. I was anxious because Saturday was the last day for her enrollment and we were running out of time," Garcia told *Saipan Tribune*.

Garcia's daughter is among the 321,516 depositors of LBC Development Bank, a thrift bank owned by the LBC Group that was placed under receivership of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. by the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (central bank).

"As receiver, PDIC took over the bank on Sept. 9, 2011. PDIC shall gather, verify, and validate all bank records and administer and preserve its assets for the benefit of all creditors," PDIC said in its website.

PDIC said that LBC Development Bank, a 20-unit thrift bank headquartered in Poblacion, Makati City, has an estimated total deposit liabilities of P6.09 billion (about $140 million) and insured deposits amounting to P3.73 billion (about $86 million).

Inquiring depositors

Garcia thought that LBC's system going offline on Saturday was only temporary since there had been incidents in the past when the system would go down then go back up again within 24 hours.

"I was told by the LBC Garapan branch that they received an email notification from Manila that there was just a shutdown in the system. Nobody knew that the bank had already closed down," she said.

Garcia disclosed that she sent the additional $200 to her daughter through LBC's *Instant Peso Padala*, which would let her daughter claim the money over the counter at any LBC branch.

A graphic artist on Saipan, who sends remittances both through LBC and PNB, said in an interview that he remitted $400 to his family in the Philippines around 10am on Friday.

"It just so happened that I sent the money that time through LBC. When my family went to withdraw the money on Saturday, they couldn't because it was offline," he said, agreeing to speak on condition of anonymity.

He said that since his family didn't receive the remittance, he again sent money through PNB remittance.

When news about the receivership broke out, Garcia and the graphic artist were among the LBC depositors on Saipan who went to the two LBC branches on Saipan to find out more about happened to their money.

An LBC staffer, who declined to be identified, said they already received many calls from depositors who inquired about the process of making deposit claims.

"A lot of them already called. You can't stop them because it's all over the news. What we do is we ask them to fill out forms for deposit claims which we then forward to our Manila office," said the LBC staff.

PDIC said that 99.4 percent of the 321,516 LBC Development Bank accounts as of June 30 are fully covered by deposit insurance, assuring them that it will pay all valid deposit insurance claims "as soon as possible."

"We request depositors to await further announcements on claims operations. PDIC shall give periodic updates as soon as the examination of bank records is complete. These will be posted in bank sites and the PDIC website, www.pdic.gov.ph," PDIC said in a statement.

Garcia is optimistic that she will be able to retrieve her money.

"I know it's not the fault of LBC Saipan. Who would have thought that something like this would happen? They were also not informed right away about what happened. I will wait until our money is returned to us," she added.

The receivership incident has prompted Garcia, the graphic artist, and other LBC bank depositors on Saipan to transfer to other remittance companies.

CUC repairing three pumps

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is currently working on repairs of a second pump to bring additional water to residents living along As Terlaje Hill, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Beach Road Chalan Lau Lau north to the Naked Fish restaurant, Middle Road north to the old Japanese jail.

Travis Spaeth, acting water and wastewater division manager, explains that normally, CUC has two pumps working to bring water to these areas.

"Currently, the Isley Booster 1 is the only pump working. Until the second pump is repaired, water services are limited and residents living in these areas may receive less water than expected," he said.

CUC is also working on the repairs of two pumps and motors for the wells at the Calhoun reservoir that provide water to the residents of China Town, Upper Miha, Upper and Lower Navy Hill and Garapan.

"Until these repairs are completed the residents in these areas are currently supplied water from the Sablan Quarry area. We are working to get the pumps and motors running by the end of the week," said Spaeth, adding that CUC apologizes, in advance, for any inconvenience resulting from these projects and the water service interruption.

He advised customers to call CUC water and wastewater division at 322-5030. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

In Loving Memory of our Beloved

Eileen Olopai Pellegrino

May 29, 1966 – September 19, 2010

We would like to invite our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 1st Year Anniversary of the passing of our beloved Eileen O. Pellegrino unto her eternal rest. Daily masses of intentions are being offered at the Kristo Rai Parish in Garapan beginning September 11th thru the 19th, 2011 at 6:00am. Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Olomwaay, and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Tony Pellegrino & children and families

Neo Gold Wings assures paying $211K debt by Sept. 30 deadline

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Neo Gold Wings Paradise told the Department of Public Lands on Tuesday that they will meet the Sept. 30 deadline to pay their land lease arrears, which will total over $211,000 by the end of this month, so that both parties can proceed with a negotiation to reinstate a land lease to build an ambitious $1.6-billion to $3-billion casino resort on Tinian.

DPL Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said yesterday that Neo Gold Wings chairman and chief executive officer Joseph Hyun sent him an email on Tuesday, informing him that they will be on Saipan before the end of September to settle their obligations.

Babauta said DPL won't be further extending the Sept. 30 deadline.

"They expressed continued interest and [are] now finalizing their financial strategy," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The DPL official also said that Hyun indicated another site visit to Tinian in November.

"I am relieved and elated that they have not forgotten about their commitment, especially to Tinian," Babauta said.

But if Neo Gold Wings fails to pay its past debt in two weeks' time, DPL said it will scrap further negotiations.

Babauta, at the same time, said there's another group of investors eyeing a San Roque property—the same lot where three other groups of investors had considered for their hotel projects that were later scrapped.

This fourth group of investors is based in China, and engaged in real estate development.

"We are now talking to their representative in the CNMI. Their initial plan is to build a condo-tel on the property. They're still in exploratory stage and we can't disclose their names at this time," he said.

Island Ventures LLC just recently scrapped its plan to build a new $60-million five-star hotel on the same 5.1-hectare of public land in San Roque, north of the former The Palms, citing corporate restructuring and economic uncertainties.

Flame Sako had also planned to build an $80-million hotel, and Leisure Planner, a $120-million hotel, on the property but scrapped their plans for different reasons.

Education Commissioner names new EEO officer, interim HR director

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System now has a new Equal Employment Opportunity officer and interim human resource director after Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan respectively named Coreen Palacios and Charley Kenty to the posts.

Kenty was appointed PSS' new EEO officer last Sept. 6. Kenty has been with the PSS since 1989 where he started as assistant to the HR director.

The EEO position, which has been vacant for several years, was filled this year to better assist and provide PSS employees, parents, and education stakeholders tools and knowledge about their employment rights. Sablan said Kenty's position will directly report to her office.

The commissioner said the new appointment was not only made to specifically address grievances submitted at her office, but provide all personnel knowledge about the equal employment opportunity service offered by PSS.

"In many organizations, you have to have an EEO officer and this position has always been there. So I made it very clear that it needs to be put in place so that everyone would be educated and provided the equal opportunities—not only for teachers, support staff, but to all PSS clientele. This is really for everyone," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Sablan explained that the process of filing grievance or complaint starts at the commissioner's office where it will delegate to the EEO officer.

Information online stated that an equal employment opportunity officer has an essential function in the job industry: making sure that employees are not discriminated against based on sex, race, gender, origin or anything else that does not necessarily affect their ability to perform assigned tasks. The EEO officer is also responsible for implementing and overseeing affirmative action and EEO programs, which make sure the company is in compliance with federal and state regulations.

Also effective Sept. 6, Sablan appointed Coreen Palacios as PSS' interim human resource director, replacing Kenty. Palacios served the school system for many years before her appointment to the new position.

Besides the equal employment opportunity officer and human resource director, five new principals were also named by the commissioner before the new school year's opening. These include Jessica Barcinas-Taylor for Tanapag Elementary School, Yvonne Pangelinan for San Vicente Elementary School, Paulette Sablan for Garapan Elementary School, James Sablan for San Antonio Elementary School, and Cherlyn Cabrera for Marianas High School.

Parks and Recreation staff arrested for allegedly stabbing wife with metal pipe

An employee of the Division of Parks and Recreation was arrested on Monday after he allegedly stabbed his wife with a metal pipe inside their pickup truck at their residence in As Lito.

The couple's three children, who were looking out the kitchen window, reportedly saw the assault and were so scared as they have seen their father beating their mother several times in the past.

Medics treated the victim at the scene. She refused to be transported to the Commonwealth Health Center, but medics advised her to get an X-ray because she might have sustained a fracture on her left ribs. She sustained abrasion and bruises on the left rib area.

Patricio I. Kapileo, 51, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate David Wiseman imposed a $500 cash and $4,500 unsecured bond for the temporary release of Kapileo.

Preliminary hearing will be on Sept. 22 at 9am.

Assistant attorney general Russell Lorfing appeared for the government. Assistant public defender Douglas Hartig was appointed to represent the defendant.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that on Monday afternoon a friend dropped Kapileo at his residence.

After a few minutes, Kapileo's wife and her 1-year-old grandson arrived home in their pick-up truck.

Kapileo shouted at his wife to get out of the truck and give him the car keys.

When she prepared to get out of the truck, the defendant picked up a metal pipe from the ground and allegedly forcefully stabbed her with it on the left rib area.

The wife walked toward Happy Market, crying. One of the children followed her as they then reported the incident to the police.

Kapileo got into the truck and drove away. While police officers were interviewing the victim at Happy Market, the defendant came and tried to walk over to his wife. A police officer stopped him and handcuffed him.

Detective Aldan said according to the wife Kapileo is violent and abusive to her and their three children throughout their marriage.

One of the children told police that they're scared to stop their father because he hit them when they tried to stop him from beating their mother in the past. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 025 E 01, containing an area of approximately 12,225 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is L&T Group of Companies, Ltd., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Willie Tan, Jerry Tan, and Glicerio Arago.

The President of the Corporation is Willie Tan. The Vice President is Jerry Tan. The Treasurer/Secretary is Glicerio Arago.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Glicerio Arago.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating the business of warehousing, moving, loading and unloading and storage of property , and activities related thereto.

The term of the lease agreement extension is 15 years.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before September 27, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

I MAPROPONI NA INEKSTENSION ATKILON TÅNU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi nutisia Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku Siha guini ha nutisia na i intension-ña na para u rekumenda i inekstendin atkilon gi sigienti na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha.

Esti i inekstendin atkilon masuhetu para i inaprueban i Leyislatura gi Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha sigun ni mamånda ni mapega huyung gi Attikulu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas. Maseha håyi na petsona siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum imfetmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra gi tinahgui na propositu siha para i atkilon tanu' pupbliku. Komu sigi mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lai Pupbliku 15-2, gi sigienti pettanesi na imfotmasion ni madimånda para u mapupblika.

i. I atkilon i lugåt madiskribi komu tanu' pupbliku Lot No. 025 E 01, kinonsisti kåsi guaha 12,225 na åria (square meters), putlumenus pat mås, ni gaigi giya Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian esti na lugåt yan i pumalu nai guaha gi Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku ni para u marikunosi.

ii. I manatkikila i L & T Group of Companies, Ltd., i CNMI Corporation. I Direktot i Kuetpu siha gi Corporation si Willie Tan, Jerry Tan, yan si Glicerio Arago.

I Presidentin i Corporation si Willie Tan. I Sigundu Presidenti si Jerry Tan. I Tresureru/Sikritåriu si Glicerio Arago.

iii. I maproponin inekstendin atkilon manigosiu as Siñot Glicerio Arago.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kuntinuha umusa i lugåt solamienti para i maneran operasion bisnis i warehousing, moving, loading yan unloading yan storage i property, yan aktibidåt siha ni uma'achuli' guihi siha.

I teman esti na kuntråta inekstendin atkilon sa' kinsi (15) åñus.

v. I kopian i kuntråtan i manmaproponi na inekstendin atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, gaigi gi mina'sigundu(2nd) bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat gi Primet(1st) bibienda giya Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu tanu' pupbliku siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sikritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta i tinigi' imfotmasion, opiñon, testamoñon kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i gai intires na petsona siha gi pat åntis di Septembre 27, 2011 gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sangi alughulughul Sów Ffëérúl Allégh mellol Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands iye e alléghewow mellól Article XI, Tálil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Northern Mariana Islands. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer nge rebwe ischilong aghiyghiir, awewee, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap mebwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No.025 E 01, ebwe yoor seigh me eew sangaras ruwabwughúw reweigh me limoow llapal (12, 225 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge L&T Group of Company, CNMI Corporation. Mwiischil asamwool kkey (Directors) mellól Corporation nge Willie Tan, Jerry Tan, me Glicerio Arago.

Samwoolul Corporation nge Willie Tan. Arúscheyil Samwool nge Jerry Tan.
Treasurer/Secretary nge Glicerio Arago.

iii. School aweweel akkilon yeel nge Mr. Glicerio Arago..

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe sobwey yaal mwóghut ágheli bisinisil sokko, amwatal me atotootiw me sokkol peiragh me akkááw mwóghutul.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years)

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel..

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Maan (September) 27, 2011 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

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i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 010 B 96, containing an area of approximately 909 square meters, more or less, and Lot No. 010 B 97, containing an area of approximately 1,072 square meters, more or less, situated in San Roque, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is V & C Enterprises, Inc., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Victoria B. Camacho, Cathy C. Villagomez, Claudine B. Camacho, Michelle C. Macaranas, and Neda B. Camacho.

The President of the Corporation is Victoria B. Camacho. The Vice Presidents are Cathy C. Villagomez and Claudine B. Camacho. The Treasurer is Michelle C. Macaranas. The Secretary is Neda B. Camacho.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mrs. Victoria B. Camacho.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating a grocery store, coin operated laundromat, poker machine establishment, gasoline service/filling station, mini-mart, storage and facilities directly related to these activities.

The term of the lease agreement extensions is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in San Roque, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before September 27, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intensionña para u rekumenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Esti na inekstendin atkilon siha manmasuhetu para i inaprueban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas gi sigun ni mamånda ni mapega huyung gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I lugåt atkilon siha madeskribi komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 010 B 96, kinonsisti årian kåsi guaha 909 square meters, putlumenus mås, yan i Lot No. 010 B 97, kinonsisti i åria ni kåsi guaha 1,072 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya San Roque, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaigi na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i V & C Enterprises, Inc., i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpun Direktot siha gi Corporation si Victoria B. Camacho, Cathy C. Villagomez, Claudine B. Camacho, Michelle C. Macaranas, yan si Neda B. Camacho.

I Presidenti gi Corporation si Victoria B. Camacho. I sigundu Presidenti si Cathy C. Villagomez yan si Claudine B. Camacho. I Tresureria si Michelle C. Macaranas. I Sekritåria si Neda B. Camacho.

iii. I maproponi na ekstension atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñora Victoria B. Camacho.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugåt siha uniku para i hinangai i operasion tendan grocery, coin operated laundromat, inistaplesin måkinan poker, setbisiun gasoline/filling station, mini mart, storage yan fasilidåt siha ni mana'achuli' guini na aktibidåt.

I teman i kuntråtan atkilon ha ekstendi gi 15 åñus.

I manmaproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt siha.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråta ekstension atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi segundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya San Roque, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Septembre 27, 2011 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL EBWE SÓBWEEYLÓ AKKILON-UL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (a) me (b) mellól Public Law 15-2, Bwulasiyool Faluweer Toulap ekke atotoow ammataf igha e tipáli bwe ebwe tingóór extension reel akkilon mereel eghus falúweer toulap mewóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Lease extension yeel ebwe alúghúlúghló mereel Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas Commonwealth Legislature sángi llól mandate ye e towoow mellól Article XI, § 5(c) mellól Constitution-ul Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Reer toulap schóókka eyoor yaar mwuschel rebwe issisilong yaar mwáliili, mángemáng, aweewe me angiingil reel poomw kkaal reel akkilon-ul falúweer toulap. Me Public Law 15-2, e ayoora lamal aweewe kka e fisch ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Akkilon-ul falúw yeel ekke bwáárilo bwe public land Lot No. 010 B 96, emmwel ebwe yoor tiwabwughúw tiwoow (909) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, me ebwe yoor eew Lot No. 010 B 97 sangaras fissigh me ruwoow (1,072) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, elo San Roque, Seipél. Tiliighil bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyol Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land) bwe aubwe ghuleey fischiy.

ii. Schóól lessee nge V & C Enterprises, Inc, eew CNMI Corporation. Samwoolur Board-ul Corporation yeel nge ikka, Victoria B. Camacho, Cathy C. Villagomez, Claudine B. Camacho, Michelle C. Macaranas, me Neda B. Camacho.

President-il Corporation yeel nge Victoria B. Camacho. Vice President nge Cathy C. Villagomez me Claudine B. Camacho. Treasurer nge Michelle C. Macaranas. Secretary nge Neda B. Camacho.

iii. Schóól aweewel pomwol lease extension yeel nge Mrs. Victoria B. Camacho.

iv. Schóól lessee ebwe sóbweyló yaal yáali bwuley yeel reel mwóghutul ebwe ayoor grocery store, coin operated Laundromat, poker machine establishment, gasoline service/filling station, mini-mart, storage me facilities kka ebwe yáayá reel milikkaal.

Tool abwungubwungul extension yeel nge seigh me limwoow (15) ráágh.

Pomwol annual rental reel tool nge ebwe bweibwogh sángi percentage-il appraised fair market value reel properties.

v. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal pomwol abwungubwungul ebwe sóbweeyló akkilon yeel emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mellól bwulasiyol Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land), elo 2nd floor mereel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; Songsong Village, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor mereel Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap(Department of Public Land) esáál bweighbwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye public lands me San Roque, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Secretary of the Department of Public Lands) ebwe bwughil iischil mángemáng, angiingi me ngáre ifa mereel pomwo kkaal sángi schóókka re tipáli, wóól me ngáre mmwal Maan (September) 27, 2011 mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands offices) kka elo Seipél, Luuta, me ngáre Tchúlúyól.

NMHC buys lot for planned middle school in Koblerville

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. has already purchased the private lot in Koblerville where a new middle school will be built using the Community Development Block Grant.

Jeannie Mafnas, NMHC planner and grant writer, revealed in an interview on Tuesday that the acquisition, which had a price tag of about $1.1 million, was carried out in July 28.

Mafnas said that funding used to purchase the property were CDBG funds from previous years reprogrammed for this project.

Board of Education member Lucy Blanco-Maratita earlier said that the location is an ideal site to build a junior high school that fills the gap for a complete primary and secondary school while allowing the new middle school to possibly share resources and facilities with the high school.

The Public School System has also disclosed its plans to relocate 600 students of Hopwood Jr. High School, along with their teachers, to the new school once it is constructed.

According to Mafnas, the construction of the junior high school is the only project to be funded by CDBG for program year 2010, which has $824,363 in CDBG funds.

Mafnas said they received about 10 other proposals seeking funding through the formula grant administered by the NMHC that provides financial support for community development projects. However, the new middle school project was chosen over the other projects.

"We made that commitment that if we're going to acquire the land, we're going to assist in constructing the school," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Mafnas noted that funding for one program year would not be enough to construct the school or, at the least, a "usable facility" such as the school cafeteria or library, thus prompting them to finance the project for the next two program years.

"We have to have a usable facility if we're going to use CDBG funding. At the end of the program year, there must be a usable facility whether or not the whole school is complete," she said.

At present, Mafnas said they are still in the planning stage of the project with the PSS and are in the process of getting costing. "We have to obtain contractor's estimates then we start bidding."

Mafnas said the other proposers were informed that all projects will be put on hold "until we fulfill this construction."

"After two years, we can go back and maybe entertain the other proposals," she said.

50 men sign up for prostate cancer forum

Some 50 men have already signed up for the Prostate Cancer Health Forum slated for Friday.

The Prostate Cancer Health Forum, to be held at Aqua Resort Club from 8am to 2pm, is being organized by the Department of Public Health as part of the celebration of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

This year's celebration has the theme, "Real Men Get Their Facts!"

"We already have 50 confirmed attendees, including four of our representatives," Kimberly Sablan, chairperson of the Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Committee, told *Saipan Tribune.*

Sablan disclosed that forum presenters, composed of DPH staff, will talk about prostate screenings available and the steps that men should take to lower their risk of prostate cancer.

"I'm very happy that we're right on our target audience, which is male individuals age 40 years or older," added Sablan.

Sablan said the number of early registered participants is a reflection that the community is becoming more aware about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.

"By the end of the month, I'm hoping to see more men learn from this forum," said Sablan. "Like I always say, it's them that would benefit from this."

To register for the forum or for more information, call Sablan at 236-8728. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Chamber members to meet USCIS

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a United States Citizenship and Immigration Services educational outreach session to instruct Chamber membership on the recently published Transitional Worker (CW-1) Rule.

USCIS District 26 Community Relations Officer, Darlene Kutara, notified the Chamber that an outreach team will conduct an information session on the Transitional Worker Rule, and other immigration classifications under the Immigration and Nationality Act, on Sept. 21, from 1pm to 3pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Facility in Susupe, Saipan.

Chamber members are invited to register with the SCC office for seating. Chamber members are invited at no charge, while the Chamber will allow non-members to attend for $15 to cover the cost of the multi-purpose facility. Registration is accepted at the door the day of the session, and non-members can register at the Chamber offices, as well, by calling 233-7150/7152.

For more information please visit www.uscis.gov. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free business dev't workshops set

The CNMI Small Business Development Center, in partnership with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, is inviting the public to a series of free business development workshops.

The Guam branch of the Small Business Administration will be doing presentations on HUBZone Programs and SBA Programs.

- HUBZone Programs: Sept. 14, 2011, 9am to 11am
- SBA Programs: Sept. 15, 2011, 9am to 11am

Both workshops will be held at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office on the first floor of the Familia Building in Garapan.

Pre-registration deadline is 12pm of Sept. 12, 2011.

For more information, contact Ralph Yumul or Linda Cabrera at 664-3018 or email linda@pacificsbdc.com Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities must be made 72 hours in advance. For arrangements, contact the CNMI SBDC at 664-3018. ***(PR)***

Saipan Tribune columnist on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011, Marianas Agupa will feature *Saipan Tribune* columnist John Del Rosario between 10am to 10:30am. The show is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. The discussion will be on the newly enacted Retirement Derivative Act and Article 12.

The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Featured reports are as follows: world report and program review by former mayor Joseph S. Inos and a report from Rota with correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola, a special segment called *Hafa Mohon* with Juanita Mendiola and a report from Tinian by correspondent and radio commentator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

Free health checkup today at Oleai pavilion

On Saturday, Sept. 17, members of the Commonwealth Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery Coalition will hold a bagging activity at Joeten Shopping Center where health brochures and freebies will be handed in to customers from 8am to 12pm. These activities are in line with the monthlong celebration of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

SIS Fun Run this Saturday

Saipan International School is having its 11th SIS 5K Fun Run this Saturday beginning at Banzai Cliff. Registration starts at 6am. Race starts at 7am. Registration fee is $10. First 120 participants will receive a T-shirt and a raffle ticket. We have really great prizes, such a one-night stay at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, dinner certificates, golf entrances, spa entrances, etc. For registration or more information, contact Mili Saiki at 288-9660 or milisaiki@hotmail.com. ***(PR)***

Veterans outreach in September

Tina San Agustin, the Department of Veterans Affairs' legal administrative specialist for Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, will be on Saipan on Sept. 28-29, 2011, for a Veterans Outreach on veterans' federal benefits. She will be also entertaining questions and assisting veterans and all concerned with their claims.

Agustin will be stationed at the Military and Veterans Affairs Office on Capitol Hill, building 1364, Saipan, from 8:30am to 4:30pm on both days.

For those who wish to make an appointment or for further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 664-2650.

Humanities Council to present lecture series with Chamorrica scholars

The general public is invited to a presentation by Prof. Dr. Thomas Stolz and Barbara Dewein, who will share information related to the Chamorrica project.

The lecture will take place on Saturday, Sept. 17, at 10am at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theatre.

Chamorrica aims to translate, re-edit, and annotate various documents on the Chamorro language that were produced between 1668 and 1950.

Members of the community will have an opportunity to ask questions about the project and to share with the visiting scholars concerns related to Chamorro language planning and revitalization.

From the Universitat Bremen in Germany, Stoltz and Dewein are also meeting with local researchers and scholars involved in efforts to study and preserve the Chamorro language.

Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information, please call 235-4785 or visit the Council website at www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 15, 2000

CDA gets new Microloan funds from SBA

Fresh cash for local business development is expected to flow from the Commonwealth Development Authority after the Guam-based United States Small Business Administration approved the agency's request for additional funds under the Microloan Program. Executive Director Marylou S. Ada yesterday disclosed that SBA has okayed CDA's request for $420,000 in supplemental funding that would facilitate the expansion of the highly-successful Microloan Program launched in the CNMI late last year. "We are pleased to hear of SBA's favorable response as our initial funding has already been depleted and we continue to receive Microloan applications," said Ms. Ada. She added that the approval for the release of the additional funds would facilitate the growth of the Microloan Program as it will allow the agency to replenish its depleting portfolio for small-scale investors in the Northern Marianas.

Workforce training opportunities at NMC

The Workforce Development Program, formerly known as the Human Resource Training Office, is a unit under the division of Continuing Education at Northern Marianas College. This department is charged with the responsibility of coordinating and providing various government training courses and offers a broad range of certificate and short-term career-related training programs. To ensure program effectiveness, evaluations and assessments of training needs are conducted throughout the year by collaborative efforts between various training personnel in the CNMI Government, Northern Marianas College and the feedback collected from program participants. The training course schedules of the Workforce Development Program are published three times annually during the Fall, Spring, and Summer terms.

Sept. 15, 2003

Bill filed to compel NMC to abide with court order

A lawmaker prefiled a bill Friday that aims to compel the Northern Marianas College to comply with a recent court order recognizing the inclusion of college employees under the Civil Service Act. House Bill 13-327, authored by Saipan Rep. Stanley Torres, asks the college to subscribe to the Sept. 3, 2003, ruling of the Superior Court, which "clarified" that NMC is not exempted from the Civil Service Act as provided in 1 CMC 8131 and 1 CMC 8101. In the bill, Torres said the college has not complied with the due process protections outlined in the CNMI constitution and the Civil Service Act as shown in the terminations of NMC employees without cause since Sept. 2002.

MPLA: CPA agrees to land designation

Instead of outright ownership, the Commonwealth Ports Authority has agreed to just use the public lands it needs in Puerto Rico for its expansion plan, according to the Marianas Public Lands Authority. MPLA commissioner Henry S. Hofschneider said in an interview that CPA executive director Carlos Salas agreed during a recent congressional meeting to the conditions set by the MPLA on the use of the properties identified by CPA under its expansion program. However, Hofschneider said that since that meeting, which took place four weeks ago, Salas "never got back to us." "We've yet to receive anything from them. During that meeting [with Rep. Arnold Palacios], the CPA executive director said that CPA would agree to the conditions [of the MPLA]," said Hofschneider.

Sept. 15, 2004

Groups raise funds through cleanup

More local organizations wanting to raise funds have chosen to do cleanup drives around the island. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce said that in the past couple of months alone, several groups of students, church members, and other club or organization representatives participated in its Cash for Trash program, cleaning up various roadsides and beaches islandwide. "It gives these groups the opportunity not only to provide community service and clean up the island's beautiful beaches and parks but also to raise funds for the activities of their organizations," said the chamber.

CDA to defer payment of Chaba victims

The Commonwealth Development Authority is now carefully reviewing the possible deferment of loan payments by borrowers who were affected by Supertyphoon Chaba. CDA can give up to 90 days payment deferment to eligible individuals, said CDA board member Tom Quitugua in an interview.

NCD crisis declared in Pacific

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—An epidemic of chronic lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, heart failure, and cancer is undermining economic development and has placed the region in "an NCD crisis," Pacific Islands Forum leaders have declared.

At their meeting in Auckland last week, Forum leaders heard the facts about the impact of NCDs (non-communicable diseases, so-called in medical circles to distinguish them from communicable ones such as malaria, influenza, tuberculosis and dengue).

World Health Organization surveys show NCDs now account for three out of every four deaths in the region and leaders were told the Pacific has some of the highest rates of these diseases and their causes in the world. This has resulted in a growing burden on health systems and high levels of slow, painful and premature deaths with considerable social and economic impact.

Recognizing the situation as a "human, social and economic crisis requiring an urgent and comprehensive response," Forum leaders said decisive action was needed to address the NCD crisis.

In their statement, "leaders expressed alarm that 75 percent of all adult deaths in the Pacific are due to NCDs, with the majority coming from the economically active age bracket, and that many more times this number suffer severe side effects that undermine their capacity to contribute further to economic development."

Noting the World Economic Forum's ranking of NCDs as one of the top global threats to economic development, leaders concluded the crisis could undermine the future economic development of countries of the region.

Leaders are now concerned that NCDs cause a substantial drain on economic potential by adversely affecting the four main factors of economic growth: labor supply, productivity, investment, and education. The crisis could also undermine the region's achievement of the 2015 Millennium Development Goal health targets.

The main causes of NCDs are high levels of tobacco and alcohol use, low consumption of fruit and vegetables and low levels of physical activity. Leaders thus committed their governments to fast-track five key actions proven to reduce NCDs—tobacco control, improved diets (mainly through reduction of salt, fats and sugar), physical activity, reduced alcohol intake, and access to essential drugs and technologies. They also noted that many NCD interventions are revenue-generating, such as increases in taxes for tobacco and alcohol.

Forum leaders further commended and welcomed the commitment by Pacific Ministers of Health to provide sustained leadership and support for NCD prevention and control through 'whole of government and whole of society' approaches to address the NCD crisis. They also welcomed a similar commitment by Pacific Ministers of Sport.

They specifically called on the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and World Health Organization and other regional agencies to work with all Pacific Island countries using their respective 'whole of government, whole of society' approaches to strengthen their capacities to address NCDs as a matter of urgency.

WHO Western Pacific regional director Dr. Shin Youngsoo and Secretariat of the Pacific Community director-general Dr. Jimmie Rodgers acknowledged "with great appreciation" the priority accorded by the leaders to NCD prevention and control and pledged their support and cooperation to assist the region address this number one public health problem.

Rodgers said that top-level political commitment to taking action on NCDs was critical.

"The call for a 'whole of government and whole of society approach' is both timely and crucial as most of the risk factors and determinants for NCDs lie outside of the health sector and so do most of the solutions," he said. "The war against NCDs needs to be fought at the individual, family, community, whole of government and the whole of society level in each country and in the Pacific region."

"The war needs the vision of leaders, the commitment of governments, the support of partners, and assistance from regional and international bodies. Together we will make a difference."

"Pacific leaders have declared the crisis. Now we in the Pacific must take up the challenge."

Also supporting the declaration, Shin said it was "great to see the urgency" leaders have placed on NCDs since they are among the biggest health burdens in Pacific Island countries. They impact on all spheres of development and hinder the achievement of the MDGs and the 'Healthy Islands' principles agreed to by all countries and territories.

"It augments the commitment by Ministers of Health to scale up their action including the strengthening of their respective health systems to deal with NCDs and other areas in their last meeting in Honiara," he said.

WHO Western Pacific Region has prioritized NCD prevention and control and the 62nd Regional Committee next month will address NCDs with a view to expanding and intensifying prevention and control in the region.

SPC's governing body, the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations, has prioritized prevention and will also address NCDs at its 41st meeting in November with a view to intensifying prevention and control efforts in collaboration with WHO.

Both WHO and SPC are supporting the Pacific Islands delegations to the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on NCDs in New York next week (Sept. 19–20, 2011), which should add global momentum to the fight against NCDs and lead to enhanced collaboration between agencies and partners.

SPC and WHO applaud Pacific Island Forum Leaders for their leadership and foresight in addressing the issue of NCDs with urgency. They acknowledge the current support for NCD work provided by Australia and New Zealand through the 2-1-22 Pacific NCD program and welcome the recent announcement by Australia of continued support for NCD prevention and control in the region. ***(Secretariat of the Pacific Community and World Health Organization)***

FREEDOM WALK CLARISSA V. DAVID

Transportation Security Administration agents and students wait for the start of the Freedom Walk which commenced at the Garapan Fishing Base and ended at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater last Sunday. The event commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks that prompted the United States to launch its war on terror.

OIA supports islands' 'green' initiatives

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs awarded yesterday $2 million to help support efforts to implement alternative, renewable, and energy efficiency initiatives in American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam.

Funding will assist American Samoa Power Authority's efforts to install energy saver compact fluorescent bulbs that save consumers money on their utility bills while protecting the environment and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Resources will also initiate a recycling rebate program and allow for the installation of prepaid electricity meters for homes in Tutuila and the remote islands. The prepaid program permits consumers to buy certain units of power by making an advance payment.

In the CNMI resources have already been allocated for geothermal gradient drilling and additional support will facilitate the initiation of a geophysical assessment. This will enable the island to better determine the extent of geothermal resources for the rapid development of renewable energy sources.

As one of Guam's third largest consumers of electricity in the public sector, the University of Guam expects to use OIA funds to launch a campaign to aggressively reduce their total monthly energy consumption by 2 to 5 percent. Through UOG's Center for Island Sustainability, the institution anticipates the installation of wind turbines and rooftop solar arrays to meet their energy efficiency goals and achieve significant cost-savings.

"The effective deployment of alternative, renewable and energy efficiency initiatives throughout the insular areas is vital to the sustainability of our islands. Despite our shrinking resources, I commend the leadership of each island for recognizing this as a priority and allowing our response to the energy crisis to be a coordinated effort that engages all sectors. Back in March of 2010, we launched a campaign to initiate a comprehensive energy plan for each of our U.S. insular areas and to date the progress has been tremendous and I look forward to continuing our efforts," said Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta.

The total funding provided:

- American Samoa $600,000;
- CNMI $500,000; and
- Guam $900,000. ***(OIA)***

Learn how to prepare parole-in-place applications

The Marianas Office of Micronesian Legal Services Corp. will be hosting a series of workshops to help people prepare Parole-In-Place applications. These workshops are aimed at those foreign nationals/aliens who have no other options for their status. Each workshop targets a specific category of foreign nationals who are likely to have success or may have a good chance at success in getting Parole-In-Place from the USCIS.

The first workshop is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011, at American Memorial Park at 1pm. It is ONLY for those foreign nationals who are spouses or widows/widowers of citizens of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of the Marshall Islands, collectively called the Freely Associated States.

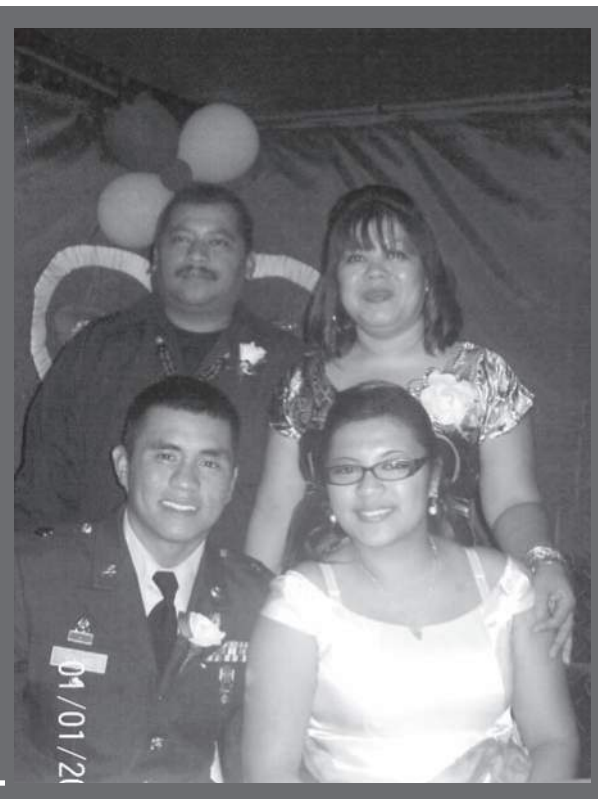
Parole-In-Place is an option of last-resort. Generally speaking, where other options are available, like the CW permit for those employed, those options should be exhausted first. Although MLSC will conduct the workshop to help people understand the process and put together their applications, no individual legal advice will be given. MLSC will not be accepting cases or filing on behalf of those who attend the workshops. The purpose of the session is simply to help get information out and help people utilize the process as successfully as they can.

Each workshop will be conducted in English. Each workshop is limited by the capacity of the auditorium at American Memorial Park. If there are no auditorium seats available, the sessions will be closed. For more information, contact the Marianas Office at 234-6243. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to Caleb Matthew Acera Cabrera, who is celebrating his second birthday today, Sept. 15! May the good Lord bless you with many more birthdays to come! Love always, your mommy, daddy, your brother Calen, Aiannah, Laven, Jaylee, Grandma, Lola, Lolo, Great Grandma Maggie, and your Super Uncle Nino Charisma!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday to the best mom in the world, Zenaida Margo Lizama Santos, standing right, who celebrated her special day on Sept. 14, 2011! We wish we're there to celebrate another happy birthday with you, Mom. We love and miss you! Greetings come from Craig and Martinie Calvo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Puerto Rico's broken police department

After years of investigation, the Department of Justice last week issued a scathing denunciation of the Puerto Rico Police Department that demands immediate attention by Gov. Luis Fortuno and the island's 4 million residents. Rarely, if ever, has a police force in the United States—or anywhere in the world, for that matter—been the target of such harsh yet well-deserved criticism.

It's not likely to come as a big surprise to the people of Puerto Rico. They've known for a long time that their police force is riddled with corruption, incompetence and mistreatment of the citizenry, but the litany of abusive practices outlined in the 116-report—"a staggering level of crime and corruption involving PRPD officers"—is breathtaking.

Apparently, police brutality is a routine crime-fighting tactic employed by the force. The Justice Department said the misuse of force, including deadly force, needlessly "injured hundreds of people and killed numerous others."

The report lists a series of controversial episodes of police-induced violence that led to an "appalling number of officer arrests and convictions for serious misconduct and criminal activity." From January 2005 to November 2010, it said, more than 1,709 members of the force were arrested on charges ranging from simple assault and theft to domestic violence, drug trafficking and murder. "More PRPD officers are involved in criminal activity," the report said, "than in any other major law-enforcement agency in the country."

In one 2007 incident, a police sergeant shot and killed a department lieutenant _ in the police station! The director of the Special Arrests and Extraditions Unit and several of his officers were convicted on drug-related charges in 2009. A lieutenant directing the weapons registry at PRPD headquarters was convicted as part of an illegal gun licensing scheme in 2009. The list of abusive episodes goes on and on, and it's not just a case of rotten apples spoiling the barrel: In October of last year, 61 PRPD officers were arrested as part of the largest police-corruption operation in FBI history.

The abusive practices include what the Justice Department called a subculture of violence within the tactical units and a pattern and practice of illegal searches and seizures in violation of fundamental constitutional rights. The misbehavior, the report said, was chronic, pervasive and covers all levels of the department.

Ironically, the department's heavy-handed approach has failed to deter criminals. This year, Puerto Rico is in the middle of one of the worst crime waves in its history, with 786 homicides through last week, 117 more than at the same point last year. Increasing crime, however, can't justify police abuses. It doesn't work and results in a citizenry that fears those who are supposed to be its protectors.

Among the many recommendations offered by the Department of Justice are better training and supervision and an independent police commission with the power to shine a spotlight on abuses and do something about them. Previous investigations have recommended much the same, to no avail.

The Justice Department's ultimate weapon is a lawsuit that would oblige the department to make changes under a judicial mandate. The problems of Puerto Rico's Police Department predate the administration of Gov. Fortuno, but it's up to him now to lead the way toward reform.

The police department is broken. If he doesn't take the lead in fixing it, the federal government and the courts will do it for him.

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War on terrorism a phantom

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer*, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

Did we win the war on terrorism?

Ten years after 9/11, Osama bin Laden is dead, and al-Qaida is fractured. There's been no second attack (although intelligence chatter has picked up possible threats during anniversary commemorations).

So people ask: Did we win?

Not really. What we've won is hard knowledge that cost us dearly. And what we've lost—well, that will cost us even more.

We know now (and many knew at the start) that there never was a "war on terrorism." The Bush administration used that term to rally the country at a terrible time, but it was badly misleading. It misdiagnosed the nature of the struggle.

This was not a conventional war like World War II where victory could be won by bullets. At the broader level, it was a battle of ideas that would take decades to play out. At the narrow level, it should have been a very specific effort to crush the jihadi network that had attacked us—al-Qaida.

Yet in 2001, we were accustomed to fighting states and didn't know how to confront an enemy that was stateless.

And so we went to war against states.

Let me be clear. I believe we had no choice but to declare war on the Afghan Taliban that was host to bin Laden. However, we were smart enough, initially, to rely on local Afghan ground forces to do the fighting, helped by our air strikes and commandos.

After that, the Bush administration's grandiose approach to war against terrorism did us in.

Instead of cleaning up the al-Qaida network in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Bush rushed to war in Iraq _ which had no al-Qaida. Our shift in focus permitted al-Qaida to flourish in Pakistan and ignored the return of Taliban networks to Afghanistan.

Meantime, the gross mishandling of postwar Iraq helped create an al-Qaida monster in that country, where there hadn't been one. It also inspired jihadis elsewhere.

And here's the biggest irony: We invaded Iraq because the Bush team convinced itself, despite much evidence to the contrary, that Iraq was home to al-Qaida—along with a nuclear program. Yet it was wealthy Saudis who financed al-Qaida and other jihadis. And, after 2001, nuclear-armed Pakistan became home base for al-Qaida and its allies. But we didn't sufficiently confront these two allies, focusing instead on Iraq.

Gradually we learned these bitter lessons over the last decade, at a huge cost in lost U.S., Iraqi, and Afghan lives.

We developed new strategies for combating stateless terrorists. We learned how to coordinate intelligence-gathering, make use of new technology (including drones), and follow the terrorist money trail. That prevented attacks and broke up networks.

After al-Qaida launched attacks on Saudi soil, the Saudi government smashed its local operations and began better intelligence cooperation with Washington, although private Saudi and Gulf money still flows to terrorist coffers.

Jihadi attacks on Pakistani army and government sites finally persuaded Pakistan's government to crack down on some militants, but its cooperation with us is still halfhearted. Otherwise, how could bin Laden have lived in Abbottabad for five years?

What we now know is that the effort to disrupt, dismantle, and deter jihadi groups from attacking us must continue for a long time. Al-Qaida may be on the ropes, but it has spawned many affiliates that want to hit us and Europe.

Those networks can be curbed or broken, but not wholly defeated. Eventually, they will implode or lose their attraction. The good news: This is already happening in the Middle East, where young people have been galvanized by Arab rebellions in which radical jihadis played no part.

The bad news: Al-Qaida clones in Pakistan still hope to take over this nuclear-armed state. This isn't out of the question. Pakistan is reluctant to crush some jihadi networks—including Afghan Taliban—because it wants to use them as a hedge against India. Pakistan's ambivalence keeps the Afghan pot boiling; its havens for Taliban make a U.S. troop withdrawal harder.

We can't invade Pakistan, but at least we've taken off our blinders about its help to jihadi networks. These days, Islamabad's foot-dragging won't prevent the United States from attacking jihadis in Pakistan with drones; this won't crush them, but it will undermine their operations.

And so, the war against terrorist networks will continue—with far more precision and focus. Our struggle to balance security needs and civil rights will be ongoing.

We'll learn to live with a certain degree of insecurity, as Europeans and Israelis have long done. We've realized this is not World War III; the jihadi threat remains real, but we can't let this threat consume us.

Yet the cost of our learning curve must be measured in more than dollars, or even lost lives. Our reputation abroad has been sullied by mistakes in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our focus on big wars made it easy to ignore growing problems and divisions at home.

A faltering economy has created more fears about the future than did the 9/11 killers; political zealots, including some GOP candidates, stoke those fears and balk at political consensus.

The fissures within our society have grown so great, we can't even pay tribute to the 9/11 fallen without bitter arguments over religion and patriotism. An event that once united the country can't reunite us 10 years after, at a time when we need unity to confront deep economic problems.

Bin Laden couldn't defeat us, and we've learned how to deal with the jihadi danger. But 10 years on, we're in danger of defeating ourselves.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The four key business multipliers

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik coaches businesses through their most challenging transition points to develop consistently profitable businesses that operate without them. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

I previously discussed the importance of the four multipliers and why it's important for every business to understand how to improve them, and now I'd like to go into more detail on each one. These multipliers all start with the letter "P", and they are measures to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of your business. They include: 1) Being purpose driven, 2) striving for productivity, 3) maintaining high performance, and 4) achieving profitability.

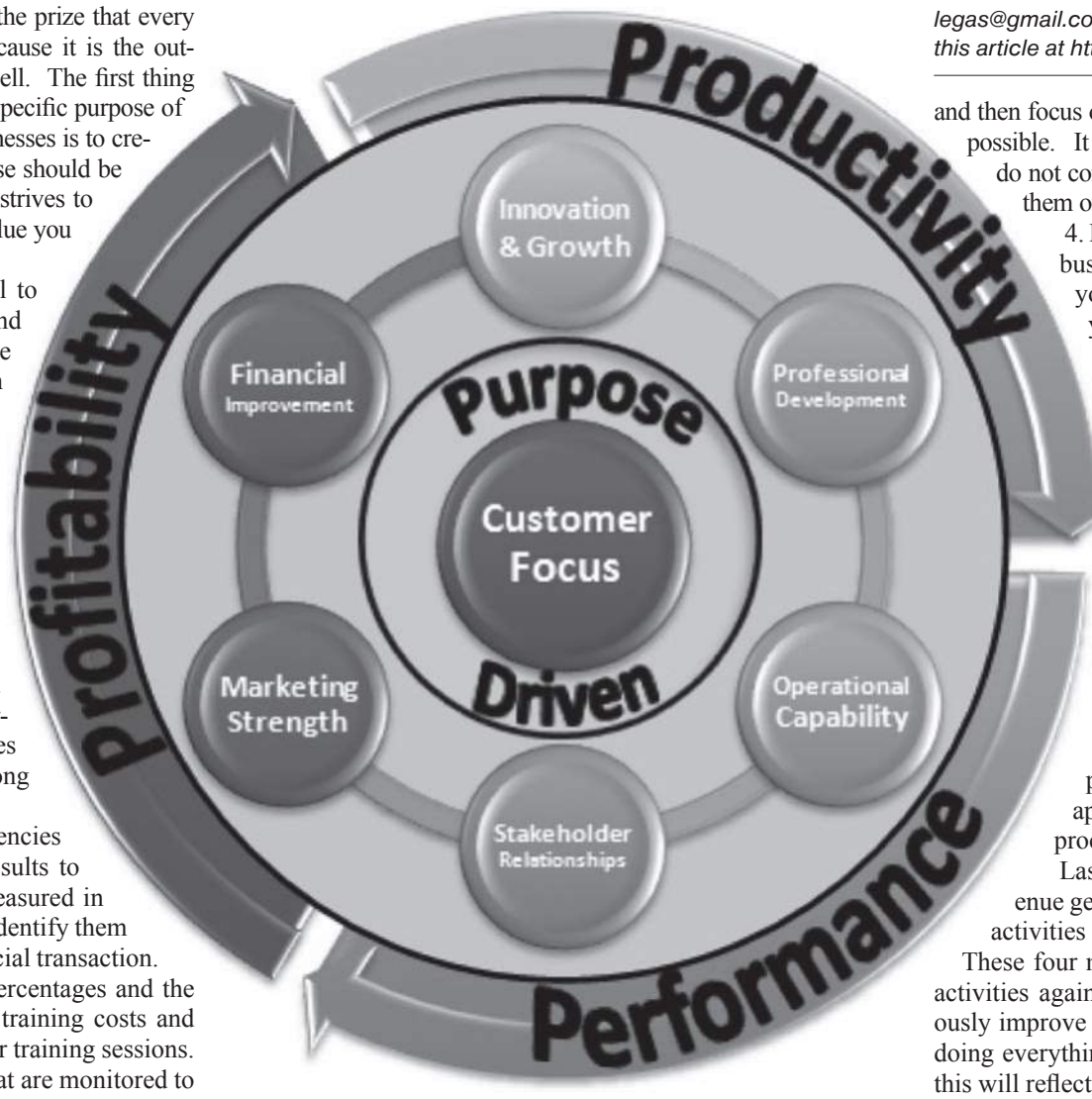
1. Purpose Driven. Although profitability is the prize that every business wants to increase, it is listed last because it is the outcome from doing the other three multipliers well. The first thing that needs to be understood is the general and specific purpose of your business. The ultimate purpose of all businesses is to create and keep customers, so your general purpose should be to create a customer-focused organization that strives to improve your customers' experience and the value you exchange with them.

Your specific business purpose is personal to you. It is the reason you started the business, and why you continue to operate it. This purpose should be found in your vision and mission statement, as well as in the guiding values of your organization. This requires much more than having an impressive vision, mission and values statement written by a consultant or top management. It should be a philosophy that is ingrained in the living culture of your business and shared through the actions of everyone in the organization. When your purpose drives your business, it will have more meaning for you, your employees and the customers you serve. Aligning your purpose with the highest values of your employees and customers will allow you to create a strong bond of loyalty and a shared purpose.

2. Productivity. This looks at the efficiencies within your business by examining your Results to Resources Ratio, or RRR. Results can be measured in many ways other than financial, and you can identify them by tracing the activities that lead up to a financial transaction. For example, look at your lead generation percentages and the costs to generate those leads. Monitor your training costs and the resulting revenue increases that occur after training sessions. You can also set service delivery standards that are monitored to ensure compliance. There are numerous measures that you can use to ensure your business is on track toward achieving its goals and mission.

3. Performance. With productivity, the focus is on the efficient use of resources to produce a result; whereas, performance looks specifically at the results being achieved. It relies on performance standards that can be used to measure and monitor the outputs of a business to determine if they are within the standards.

An important aspect of growth is to identify your key performance indicators, or KPIs, in the important areas of your business, and then focus on those activities to ensure you get the best results possible. It also means you should identify the activities that do not contribute to better performance, and either eliminate them or do less of them.



This diagram shows the four multiplies and how they relate to the 7 strategic dimensions of a business.

4. Profitability. How much you get to keep from your business activities is a result of your revenue minus your expenses. The resources required to operate your business will be your biggest expense, and they can be categorized into two categories: the variable and fixed costs of doing business. As you examine your costs and become more efficient in your operations, you will be able to add more to the bottom line. The key is to reduce your costs as a percentage of total revenue without sacrificing quality or service to your customers.

Another "P" that's not mentioned here is predictability. It should be considered in each of the multipliers, though. By having a clearly defined purpose, you should be able to create a plan and set goals to predictably advance in the direction of your vision and mission. Your productivity and performance will improve if you apply predictability through systems, policies and procedures that enhance these two multipliers.

Lastly, by measuring and testing each of your revenue generating activities, you will be able to identify the activities that create predictable profits in your business.

These four multipliers offer you the chance to monitor your activities against your goals or KPIs so that you can continuously improve in each of the dimensions. Ultimately, if you are doing everything right, you should realize your KPI goals, and this will reflect on your bottom line. As you improve in the four multipliers, it will give you greater clarity, focus, and confidence to conquer each business transition challenge, and allow you to achieve sustainable growth toward your vision.

Arab Spring makes some Israelis uneasy

By MICHAL LEVERTOV
THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR&PEACE REPORTING

TEL AVIV—While some in Israel are voicing support for the imminent Palestinian declaration of independence, seeing it as a logical extension of the revolutions that have swept the Middle East this year, others are growing increasingly skeptical of the impact the Arab Spring may have on the Jewish state.

A petition, launched by Israeli writers Yehoshua Sobol and Taha Muhammad Ali and signed by 600 Israeli Arab and Jewish leaders argues that the popular protest movements recently emerging in the Arab world and Israel represent a bona fide aspiration towards normalization in the region, "with a peace that guarantees the fulfillment of the vital needs of the peoples of Israel and Palestine."

The document explicitly backs Palestinian independence just as the Palestinians prepare to seek recognition of a state of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders, at the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 20.

While the move is widely expected to receive support from a majority of member states, it is strongly opposed by the United States as well as Israel.

The petition comes at a time of mounting doubts in Israel about the Arab Spring, in part fueled by rising tensions between Jerusalem and Cairo following multiple attacks in southern Israel carried out by Gaza militants on Aug. 18.

Eight Israelis died and the Israeli army accidentally killed five Egyptian soldiers in the incidents. In response, thousands of angry protesters demonstrated outside the Israeli embassy in Cairo, calling for the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador and an end to the three-decades-long peace treaty between the two nations.

The Israeli government has long expressed concerns about the changes taking place in neighboring states.

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak's remarks that the attacks have come at a time of "weakening Egyptian control over Sinai" reflect Israeli fears that the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak could lead to an increased security threat by militant groups on Israel's southern border.

As early as February, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu warned the Knesset of a possibility that "Egypt will go in the direction of Iran."

On Sept. 5, Maj. Gen. Eyal Eisenberg, the army's new home front commander in chief, said that what "looks like the Arab Spring ... can also be a radical Islamic winter."

Minister of Home Front Defense Matan Vilnai went further, warning "that perhaps the Arab Spring will in the long run change the Arab world [but] in the short run it seems that radical Islam will have the upper hand. We are afraid that this will happen in all sorts of countries in which moderate rulers, such as Mubarak, have regretfully gone, and other elements will rise."

Other Israelis, however, continue to believe that the Arab Spring will produce positive developments for the entire region.

"Israel's interest is to create alliance with peoples, not with despots," said Menachem Klein of the political science department in Bar Ilan University.

Klein described the attitude prevalent among many Israelis as "a bunker mentality—the outcome of a consolidation of fears and apprehensions."

"It is a disgrace for Israel—so proud of its own democracy—that it allies with such oppressive tyrants," he said.

Yossi Sarid, the former head of the left-wing Meretz party and an author and columnist, said, "In the past (Israeli leaders) said that it was impossible to reach peace with totalitarian regimes. Now, that non-totalitarian regimes are emerging, they say that it is impossible to reach peace with them. We tend here (in Israel) to adjust our justifications to new developments."

Yaron Ezrahi, professor emeritus at the political sciences department of Hebrew University in Jerusalem, said that rather than fearing the immediate instability caused by the changes in the Middle East, Israel should look favorably on the revolutions' long-term implications.

"It took the French more than 100 years to install democratic institutions," he said. The Arab Spring has, he stressed, "radically changed the concept of what is a legitimate government in the Arab world. In other words—that the authority of the government (not only) comes from the people but also that the people will not be ruled by fear anymore."

Michal Levertov is a reporter in Israel who writes for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. North winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

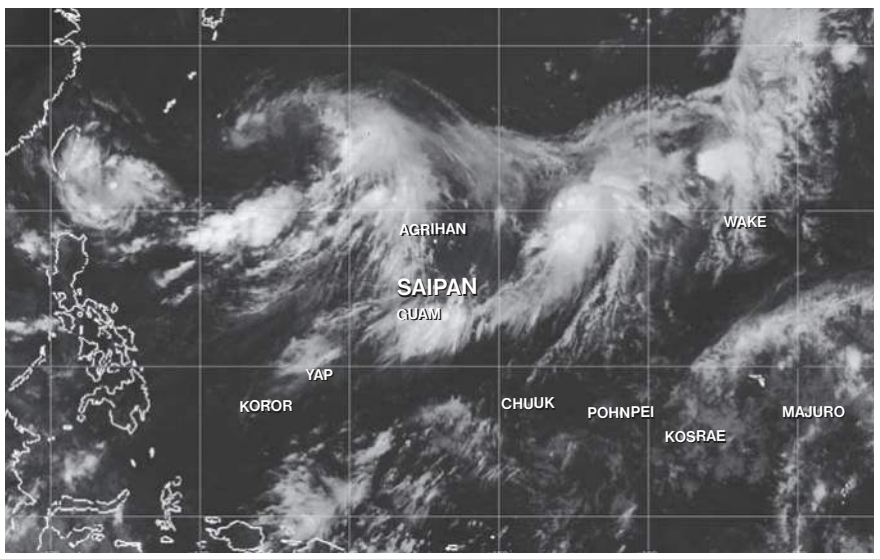
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲59	▼53
Beijing	Showers	▲70	▼58
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲88	▼76
London	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼54
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼47
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼75
New York	Thundershowers	▲85	▼66
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼75
Paris	Sunny	▲70	▼50
Pusan	Sunny	▲82	▼73
Rome	Sunny	▲90	▼67
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼54
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼70
Tokyo	Sunny	▲86	▼76
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲90	▼69

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Roke (18W) is centered at 25N137E moving northwest at 9 mph with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are occurring east and south of the center but west of the Northern Marianas within 120 miles of a line arcing from 18N130E to 21N141E to 23N143E to 25N141E. For more information on Tropical Storm Roke, refer to advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. Converging southwest winds southeast of roke are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marianas within 120 miles of a line from 13N144E to 15N153E and just north of Yap within 70 miles of 11N138E. A circulation is centered well northeast of Saipan near 20N154E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present within 120 miles of a line from 16N154E to 24N159E. A surface trough extending northeastward from 22N161E to beyond 25N at 164E is combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northeast of Wake Island north of a line from 20N162E to 22N170E. A trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers east of Majuro east of a line from 11N172E to 2N176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:17 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
9:20 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:28 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
9:02 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:18 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:16 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:54 PM	8:00 AM
Friday	8:34 PM	8:49 AM
Saturday	9:17 PM	9:38 AM
Sunday	10:02 PM	10:28 AM
Monday	10:51 PM	11:19 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 24, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
C09314	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5	C09315	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)**			
C09315	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5	C09314	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C09314	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C09315	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	5K387	6:30am	7:20am	3, 4, 7
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	4	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily	C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)				**NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN**			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	1, 3, 4, 5, 7	5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				**OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN**			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:45am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C09317/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:05am	9:55pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09313/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	C0190/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0192/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	C0184/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0184/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:25am	5, via GUM
				PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
C09603/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
				C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Nearly 1 in 6 Americans in poverty, Census says

WASHINGTON (AP)—The ranks of the nation's poor have swelled to a record 46.2 million—nearly 1 in 6 Americans—as the prolonged pain of the recession leaves millions still struggling and out of work. And the number without health insurance has reached 49.9 million, the most in over two decades.

The figures are in a Census Bureau report, released Tuesday, that offers a somber snapshot of the economic well-being of U.S. households for last year when joblessness hovered above 9 percent for a second year. The rate is still 9.1 percent at the start of an election year that's sure to focus on the economy and President Barack Obama's stewardship of it.

The overall poverty rate climbed to 15.1 percent, from 14.3 percent the previous year, and the rate from 2007-2010 rose faster than for any similar period since the early 1980s when a crippling energy crisis amid government cutbacks contributed to inflation, spiraling interest rates and unemployment. For last year, the official poverty level was an annual income of $22,314 for a family of four.

Measured by total numbers, the 46 million now living in poverty are the most on record dating back to when the census began to track in 1959. The 15.1 percent tied the level of 1993 and was the highest since 1983.

Broken down by state, Mississippi had the highest share of poor people, at 22.7 percent, according to calculations by the Census Bureau. It was followed by Louisiana, the District of Columbia, Georgia, New Mexico and Arizona. On the other end of the scale, New Hampshire had the lowest share, at 6.6 percent.

The share of Americans without health coverage rose from 16.1 percent to 16.3 percent—or 49.9 million people—according to Census Bureau revisions. The increase was due mostly to continued losses of employer-provided health insurance in the weakened economy.

Congress passed a health overhaul last year to address rising numbers of the uninsured. While the main provisions don't take effect until 2014, one aspect taking effect in late 2010 allowed young adults to be covered under their parents' health insurance until age 26.

The uninsured rate for adults 18 to 24 actually declined last year, from 29.3 percent to 27.2 percent, noted Brett O'Hara, chief of the Health and Disability Statistics branch at the Census Bureau. That was the only age group that posted a decrease, and he said "the law change certainly could be a factor."

For last year, the median—or midpoint—household income was $49,445, down 2.3 percent from 2009.

The poor include Nekisha Brooks, 28, of Fort Washington, Md., who lost her job as a customer service representative for AT&T several months ago in a round of layoffs. Raising five young children, she is now on food stamps and partly leaning on friends and family for help.

"It's hard on the kids," Brooks said, describing how her family has had to cut back on clothing and restaurant outings. "I've been putting in job applications every day and calling around, from housekeeping to customer service to admin or waitresses, but nobody seems to be hiring right now."

Bruce Meyer, a public policy professor at the University of Chicago, cautioned that the worst may be yet to come in poverty levels, citing in part continued rising demand for food stamps this year as well as "staggeringly high" numbers in those unemployed for more than 26 weeks. He noted that more than 6 million people are in the category of long-term unemployed and more likely to fall into poverty, accounting for more than two out of five currently out of work.

The latest numbers, which cover Obama's second year in office, offer political fodder for both parties as Obama seeks to push a new $447 billion plan for creating jobs and stimulating the economy. The plan includes a proposed Social Security payroll tax cut and an extension of unemployment benefits.

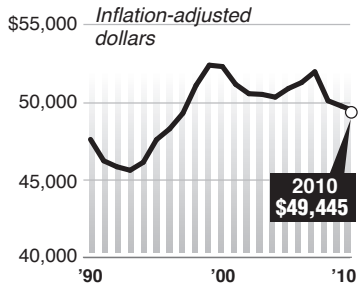
Obama is urging Congress to pay for the new spending largely by increasing taxes on the wealthy, which Republicans have emphatically rejected.

According to the report, the gap between the rich and poor widened last year, at least based on some measures. For instance, income fell for the wealthiest - down 1.2 percent to $180,810 for the top 5 percent of households. But the bottom fifth of households—those making $20,000 or less—saw incomes decline 4 percent.

Snapshot of U.S. economic well-being

Poverty continued to increase last year, even though the recession officially ended in June 2009.

Median income dropped
A decline of 6.4 percent since 2001 in median household income

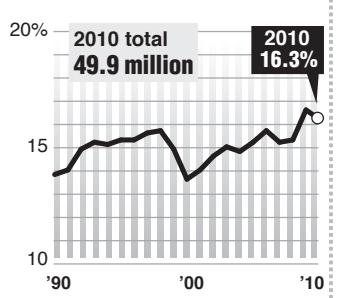


How racial/ethnic groups rank

Asian	$64,308
White, non-Hispanic	$54,620
Hispanic*	$37,759
African-American	$32,068

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

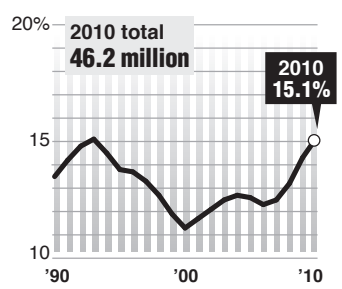
More lacked health insurance
In 2010, 1.5 million dropped from employer-sponsored plans



Hispanic*	30.7%
African-American	20.8%
Asian	18.1%
White, non-Hispanic	11.7%

*Hispanics can be any race

Poverty rate highest since 1983
Number of poor Americans is the highest since 1959



African-American	27.4%
Hispanic*	26.6%
Asian	12.1%
White, non-Hispanic	9.9%

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What does 'employment-at-will' mean?

Question: What does employment at will really mean? Can I agree with an employee to hire him or her without a contract and if I do this can I terminate the employment at any time, without cause or notice?

Before addressing the question, I have a couple of recommendations for companies and human resource staff reinforcing earlier articles.

Regarding the salary survey—if you haven't participated—do so. The deadline was extended to Sept. 16. The government survey information is in for the Executive Branch, Public School System, and other agencies. A strong participation from the private community is needed to balance out salary input. Although the survey will only have an effect on jobs that require an H1-B or other INA visa requiring prevailing wage input, not the CW-1 petitions, a government salary level prevailing wage will have a significant impact on businesses with professionals: accountants, teachers, engineers, senior managers, computer programmers/analysts/engineers, and others. So, again, if you haven't participated or haven't received any information on the survey, contact Richard Pierce, the executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. Time is running out in order to have this survey information gathered and approved for use on your upcoming visa submissions. Also keep in mind that all H1-B visa and CW-1 petitions must be postmarked no later than Nov. 28, 2011.

Regarding the Transitional Worker Regulations—if you have non-U.S. citizen workers that you plan on having work for you past Nov. 28 of this year—read and know the regulation. Attend one of the meetings that will be held by USCIS over the next two weeks. Plan ahead and ask questions to resolve any uncertainties that you might have. The USCIS website has a very thorough question and answer page. Click the Relate Links or translations of the right-side box. http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb9591 9f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?

To the question—I am an HR person and not an attorney. Employment-at-will seems on the surface to be simple—employment based upon mutual agreement—but it can be legally complicated and you should discuss not-for-cause termination issues with your attorney. I will provide some basic HR-knowledge discussion that will help you with some basics. The employment-at-will doctrine works on the premise that, when an employee does not have a written employment contract and the term of employment is of indefinite duration, the employer can terminate the employee for cause (due to misconduct or poor performance) or for no cause at all (you woke up in a bad mood one day, or some minor incident occurred that doesn't really reach the level of misconduct). At the same time, the employee can also leave the employer at-will, without apparent reason or notice. It sounds simple, with both the employee and employer equally able to agree to and to end the employment relationship. However, there are some exceptions that the courts have determined to limit the employer's at-will authority.

- If the termination is discriminatory, based upon race, sex, national origin, or any of the other categories of protection provided by federal or local equal employment or civil rights laws. Anti-retaliation provisions exist in both federal EEO and labor laws.
- If the termination violates state public policy or statute. This might include termination for whistle-blowing, refusing to lie in court or commit a crime for the company, applying for workers compensation after a work-related injury or, essentially, not being willing to violate a state policy or law that was intended to protect or prevent injury to the public.
- If the termination violates a company policy, contract or agreement that provides the employee with employment protections or creates an "implied contract." Policies, contract, handbooks, long-term practices, even verbal statements, that guarantee employment or set conditions on termination, could change the at-will arrangement.
- If the termination violates the concept of "good faith and fair dealing" on the part of the employer or employee. This would effectively limit terminations to reasons of "just" cause.

NOW—having provided that information, let me again bring you back to your attorney. HR staff can counsel and recommend on point one, discrimination and retaliation, and on point three, policy documents or agreements that might limit at-will authority, but points two, state public policy, and three, good faith and fair dealing, depend upon state/Commonwealth public policies and statutes and upon local/U.S. District court decisions. Those situations require legal assistance.

Many companies now work with an at-will employment concept. However, this brief discussion points out the need for employers to take a look at their employment documents and policies, and to be cautious about promises or written or verbal statements. Write policies, contracts, and handbook in such a manner that they do not create and implied contract, and include a disclaimer statement in each that clearly states that the document does not create a contractual obligation.

When in doubt—check with your attorney.

By FRANK GIBSON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

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STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
11,105.85	1,172.87	2,532.15
+44.73	0.00	+37.06
+0.40%	0.00%	+1.49%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9795	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8062	Philippine Peso	43.33
British Pound	0.6347	Indian Rupee	47.855	Singapore Dollar	1.2486
Canadian Dollar	0.9912	Indonesian Rupiah	8794.38	South Korean Won	1105.93
Chinese Yuan	6.3964	Japanese Yen	76.8655	Swiss Franc	0.8835
Euro	0.734	Malaysian Ringgit	3.084	Taiwan Dollar	29.6233
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2256	Thailand Baht	30.28

Nation

Same goal, opposing plans for debt 'super' panel

WASHINGTON (AP)—Digging in for a bruising struggle, Republicans on Congress' powerful deficit-fighting "supercommittee" targeted Social Security and government health care spending Tuesday while Democrats pressed for higher tax revenue as part of any deal to reduce red ink by at least $1.2 trillion over the next decade.

There were no ultimatums from either side, and there was even a fleeting suggestion that tax reform might eventually clear the way for the bipartisan agreement that both sides say they want.

Yet with the Census Bureau reporting national poverty at a 28-year high and partisan struggles flaring elsewhere in Congress, the events underscored the challenge the 12-member panel faces as it gropes for a deal that can clear Congress and win President Barack Obama's signature by year's end.

With the nation's debt high and surging and the population aging, "Citizens will either have to pay more for their government, accept less in government services and benefits, or both," Doug Elmendorf, the head of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, told supercommittee.

Though the choices are difficult, he said, the problem "need not be viewed as unsolvable."

Yet the challenge is complicated, he said, if the lawmakers' are hoping to revive the economy in the short term and to cut federal deficits in later years. In that case, "a combination of policies would be required: changes in taxes and spending that would widen the deficit now but reduce it later in the decade."

The committee has until Nov. 23 to recommend legislation, but Elmendorf said the essential decisions must be made as much as three weeks earlier than that to make sure they are drafted into a bill and their impact on the federal budget calculated carefully.

The panel was created last month as part of a compromise that avoided a threatened government default and cut nearly $1 trillion from some federal programs.

In addition to the original goal of cutting long-term deficits, Democrats want much or all of Obama's week-old $447 billion jobs proposal put on the agenda, significantly increasing the amount of savings that must be found.

"My question to Congress is: What on earth are we waiting for?" the president asked rhetorically as he visited Columbus, Ohio, to campaign for the enactment of his program of Social Security payroll tax cuts and spending increases for highway projects and other domestic programs.

Speaking in the home state of Republican House Speaker John Boehner, the Democratic president said his call for $25 million for school construction would put thousands of construction workers in Ohio back to work.

Boehner responded from the Capitol, where he said the president was seeking "permanent tax increases put into effect in order to pay for temporary spending. I just don't think that's going to help our economy the way it could."

Republicans are likely to accept some or all of the tax cuts Obama wants, but the spending increases shape up as a tougher sell. GOP leaders point out that the administration's call for higher taxes on the wealthy has faced opposition from some Democrats as well as Republicans in the past.

Debt committee spans the political spectrum

A look at the congressional panel made up of six Republicans and six Democrats who will try to produce a deficit reduction plan of at least $1.2 trillion by Nov. 23 in a bid to avoid automatic budget cuts that would go into effect as a result of the recently passed debt ceiling bill. Any plan approved by the panel would need to clear both chambers of Congress and the White House.

Senate Republicans

John Kyl
Arizona
Elected 1994
Profile The No. 2 Republican in the Senate and among the party's most influential economic thinkers; a chief negotiator in previous deficit negotiations with the vice president; expected to hold a hard line against new taxes
2008 presidential vote in his state
*McCain **54%***
*Obama **45%***

Rob Portman
Ohio
Elected 2010
Profile A former director of the White House Office of Management and Budget under President George W. Bush, a respected GOP fiscal voice; understanding of budget could make him a bridge-builder; rising star, close to leadership
2008 presidential vote in his state
*McCain **47%***
*Obama **52%***

Pat Toomey
Pennsylvania
Elected 2010
Profile Former president of Club for Growth, a conservative advocacy group, and representative of tea party-aligned GOP senators; expected to hold the line against new taxes and push for spending cuts; appointment a nod to GOP's right flank
2008 presidential vote in his state
*McCain **44%***
*Obama **55%***

Senate Democrats

Max Baucus
Montana
Elected 1978
Profile Chairman of Finance Committee and central to any potential tax deal; played influential role in past deals on entitlement and health care; close to leadership but independent; on Obama's debt commission but voted against findings
2008 presidential vote in his state
*McCain **50%***
*Obama **47%***

John Kerry
Massachusetts
Elected 1984
Profile Has emerged as respected party statesman and bridge-builder in Senate; known for foreign policy expertise but viewed as possible domestic deal-maker; has spoken out on sparing domestic programs and entitlements from big cuts
2008 presidential vote in his state
*McCain **36%***
*Obama **62%***

Co-chair
Patty Murray
Washington
Elected 1992
Profile No. 4 in Democratic Party leadership, with budget expertise; leader on Appropriations Committee and incoming chairman of the Budget Committee; strong liberal priorities, but known as practical and a coalition-builder in the Senate
2008 presidential vote in her state
*McCain **41%***
*Obama **58%***

House Republicans

Fred Upton
Michigan, 6th District
Elected 1986
Profile Chairman of the influential Energy and Commerce Committee, with expertise on domestic issues; once seen as a moderate conservative, has moved to the right to match tea party climate; possible deal-maker, but could hold line on new taxes
2008 presidential vote in his district
*McCain **44%***
*Obama **54%***

Dave Camp
Michigan, 4th District
Elected 1990
Profile Chairman of Ways and Means Committee and top GOP tax policy leader; integral to any deal on taxes; close to leadership but independent-minded; as member of president's bipartisan Fiscal Commission, voted against recommendations
2008 presidential vote in his district
*McCain **48%***
*Obama **50%***

Co-chair
Jeb Hensarling
Texas, 5th District
Elected 2002
Profile Leader of conservative flank in the House; protege of legendary budget leader Phil Gramm of Texas; expected to hold hard line against new taxes, push for spending cuts; member of president's budget commission, voted against recommendations
2008 presidential vote in his district
*McCain **63%***
*Obama **36%***

House Democrats

Xavier Becerra
California, 31st District
Elected 1992
Profile First Latino to serve on Ways and Means Committee, emerging expert on tax policy; part of Democratic leadership in the House; expected to oppose steep spending cuts, press for new taxes; on Obama's debt commission, voted against recommendations
2008 presidential vote in his district
*McCain **18%***
*Obama **80%***

James Clyburn
South Carolina, 6th District
Elected 1992
Profile No. 3 Democrat in the House, with close ties to leadership; served in vice president's bipartisan deficit-cutting effort earlier this year; expected to hold the line against deep cuts to domestic programs, especially those backed by the liberal flank
2008 presidential vote in his district
*McCain **35%***
*Obama **64%***

Chris Van Hollen
Md., 8th District
Elected 2002
Profile Top Democratic budget leader in the House, key lieutenant in leadership; negotiated on vice president's bipartisan deficit-cutting effort; potential deal-maker, expected to push for taxes on wealthy and corporations
2008 presidential vote in his district
*McCain **25%***
*Obama **74%***

Source: Lisa Mascaro, Chicago Tribune Washington Bureau, Almanac of American Politics, congressional web sites, MCT Photo Service

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Motorcyclist: Life saved by heroes who lifted car

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (AP)—The university math students heard the crash, saw the smoke and knew they had to act quickly. A motorcyclist had just collided with a car and was pinned beneath the flaming, twisted metal wreckage.

Disregarding their own safety, they rushed to the street and lined up with more than half dozen others on one side of the car. Within moments, they managed to lift the roughly 4,000-pound car just high enough for one rescuer to pull Brandon Wright to safety.

"The danger? I didn't think about it for a minute," said James Odei, 35, a doctoral candidate from Ghana who is studying statistics. "All I wanted to do was grab that car and raise it."

For their actions, the rescuers are being called "heroes" and "angels"—their few minutes of heroics was captured on video and has gone viral on the Internet. The man they saved—the 21-year-old Utah State University student—is grateful.

"I'm just very thankful for everyone that helped me out," Wright told The Associated Press by telephone from his hospital bed. "They saved my life."

Had none of the rescuers acted, "you can only speculate what the outcome would have been," Assistant Logan Police Chief Jeff Curtis said. "Every one of those people put their lives in danger."

That may be true, but none who came to Wright's aid want to be labeled a hero.

"That's a big title." Abbass Sharif, 28, another doctoral candidate who is from Lebanon. "I don't consider myself a hero. It's just our humanity ... Everyone is going to help."

At a hospital news conference on Tuesday, Wright's uncle, Tyler Riggs, recounted what Wright told his family about Monday's accident.

The crash happened near Utah State University in Logan, roughly 90 miles north of Salt Lake City. Wright was headed to study at a computer lab, Riggs said. The BMW was pulling out of a parking lot.

Tire and skid marks on the highway showed that Wright laid the bike down and slid along the road before colliding with the car, Curtis said.

Riggs said Wright tried to protect himself by laying his bike down.

The bike hit the car's hood and bounced to the ground, while Wright, who was not wearing helmet, slid under the car and then both vehicles burst into flames, Curtis said.

The video, shot by university staffer Chris Garff who had seen the smoke, shows a crowd gathering around the burning wreckage as flames shoot into the air.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ban recommended on trucker cell use and texting

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—No cellphones while driving, period. That's the rule the National Transportation Safety Board wants for millions of truckers and bus drivers. The change proposed Tuesday would be among the most sweeping highway safety measures since the push for mandatory seat belts decades ago, but many truckers think it goes too far, especially because it would bar not only handheld but hands-free devices. The NTSB enthusiastically endorsed the ban after ruling on a fiery Kentucky wreck that killed a trucker and 10 people in a van on their way to a wedding. The board said the trucker was distracted by his hands-free cellphone.

Colo. police: Suspect in 1993 girl's death is dead

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Police in a Denver suburb announced Tuesday that DNA results showed that a man long suspected in the 1993 abduction and death of a 5-year-old girl had been responsible, but they were ending the investigation because he was dead. Englewood Police Chief John Collins said investigators identified Nicholas Stofer as the lone suspect in Alie Barrelez's death through DNA testing, which wasn't available in Colorado at the time of her disappearance. Stofer died of natural causes in Phoenix on Oct. 7, 2001. Investigators said Stofer's DNA matched genetic material found on Alie's underwear and that it also matched a partial DNA profile developed from the waistband of the underwear. Police and family would not provide details.

Calif. utility paid $200K for positive web stories

COMMERCE, Calif. (AP)—A Southern California water utility paid nearly $200,000 in taxpayer dollars for glowing coverage from a website that boosted its profile on Google, according to a newspaper report. The Los Angeles Times reports (http://lat.ms/pDLHME) that officials from the Central Basin Municipal Water District used public funds to have a consultant produce promotional stories "written in the image of real news," and to have those stories posted on a professional-looking website called News Hawks Review. The utility used the stories to boost its ranking on Google, which classified News Hawks Review as a news site, the newspaper reported. Google removed the site from its search index Tuesday, following publication of the Times' story, saying News Hawks Review had violated its guidelines.

Asia

Rain compounding misery for Pakistan flood victims

BADIN, Pakistan (AP)—Stranded by floodwaters, army soldier Mohammed Hameed was unable to get to the graveyard to bury his 5-year-old daughter when she succumbed to diarrhea. He laid her to rest in his courtyard—one of the latest victims of floods that have returned to Pakistan this year, leaving some 200,000 homeless and triggering another international aid effort.

The scale of the disaster and the aid response is much less than last year, but the misery for those effected is just as real. The floods began early last month, but heavy rains have compounded them recently and hampered relief efforts.

On Tuesday, thousands of men, women and children lined the main road in Badin, the worst hit district around 200 kilometers from Karachi, the country's largest city. Some were sitting under plastic sheets held up by the branches of trees.

"There was heavy rain overnight and when we came out of our home we found ourselves stranded in high waters," said Sham Lal. He was with his seven children and a few household possessions by the side of the road, the highest ground around.

"There is nobody to rescue us and I am worried where to go," he said.

The affected area is southern Sindh province, which was also badly hit in the 2010 floods.

The United Nations is rushing food and tents there after Islamabad formally asked for foreign assistance this weekend. Japan and China have also pledged relief goods or money, according to the Pakistan government. The United States said it had paid for food packages for 23,000 families, and that its local partners would soon begin handing out tents, clean water and other supplies.

The return of the floods is testament to the heaviness of the monsoon rains that lash much of South Asia from June to September, as well as the limits of Pakistan's weak and corrupt government.

As they did last year, the floods are undercutting the legitimacy of the shaky government, which is already widely disliked and struggling against Islamist militants, ever present political turmoil and massive economic problems.

"The situation is extremely bad," said Provincial Minister Muzaffar Shajra Tuesday. "We cannot carry out relief operations because of continuos rains."

More than 200 people have been killed, 200,000 made homeless and 4.2 million acres of agricultural land have been inundated, authorities say. Most of the displaced are staying in camps, under whatever shelter they can find or in the open.

The town of Tando Bago, where Hameed lives, has been flooded with several feet of water in places, making it impossible for residents to bury their loved ones at a local graveyard, which is also flooded.

"We are stranded and we need to get out immediately to somewhere safer so we can survive," Hameed said by telephone. He buried his daughter in the courtyard of his house on Friday.

In 2010, the floods followed the course of the River Indus and its tributaries from the foothills of the Himalayas to the flatlands of Sindh, where the river empties out into the Arabian Sea.

As much as one-fifth of the country's landmass and 20 million people were affected at the peak, making it one of the largest natural disasters in recent history. The U.S. army deployed helicopters to ferry victims and aid around the country, and the U.N. and other international aid groups also helped.

Across the border in India, monsoon raids have also been causing havoc, killing at least 16 people and leaving nearly 100,000 others homeless in Orrissa state. The region has seen incessant rains for 10 days, a government minister there said.

AP

Pakistani villagers take refuge on a roadside after fleeing their homes in Badin 200 kilometers (124 miles) from Karachi, Pakistan on Tuesday, Sept 13, 2011.

PH to file 2 graft cases against Arroyo

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government will file at least two major corruption complaints against the former president before the end of the year, senior officials said Tuesday.

Arroyo

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said the credibility of President Benigno Aquino III's administration hinges on its ability to prosecute former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and other officials accused of corruption.

He said authorities were building "airtight" cases and avoiding any leak of information to ensure convictions. He declined to give details about the cases, which are likely to be filed before Christmas.

Another Cabinet official, however, said at least two major complaints were being prepared against Arroyo. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Aquino, the son of revered pro-democracy icons, won a landslide victory in May last year that was partly credited to his promise to battle endemic corruption in the Southeast Asian nation of 94 million people.

Arroyo, his predecessor, faces a number of corruption allegations stemming from her nine years in power. She has steadfastly denied any wrongdoing.

Abad said the administration was determined to stamp out corruption at every level of government.

"We know who the small guys are," Abad said at new conference. "We want to get into the roots of the problems and hit at the principals."

Abad said corruption flourished in Arroyo's time because of a lack of internal controls and a culture of political patronage. He said such weaknesses were being addressed with more transparency, accountability and anti-graft checks under Aquino.

Most government transactions, for example, will be made through an electronic procurement system instead of cash to discourage graft, and financial disbursements are being scrutinized more strictly, Abad said.

Anti-graft checks have allowed the Department of Public Works and Highways to bring down the cost of projects by up to 30 percent, saving the government huge amounts of money, Abad said.

Japan weighs request of rare NKorean defectors

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese authorities questioned nine suspected North Korea defectors Wednesday, and are considering their request to be sent to South Korea after they were found in a small wooden boat off Japan's western coast.

Tokyo is expected to issue a temporary landing permit for the group—three men, three women and three boys—as it weighs how to proceed with the rare defection from North Korea to Japan.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura hinted that his government was leaning toward honoring the group's desire to be sent to South Korea.

"By considering precedent, we would like to handle the situation appropriately," Fujimura told reporters, referring to a 2007 case involving a family of four North Korean defectors.

In that incident, a couple and two adult sons traveled in an open boat for six days to reach northern Japan. They were the first defectors from the country to arrive by boat in Japan in 20 years.

The four said they were trying to escape extreme poverty and asked for asylum in South Korea, where they were eventually sent.

The group found Tuesday was first spotted by a local fisherman, who contacted authorities about an unfamiliar vessel in waters near the Noto peninsula, which juts into the Sea of Japan.

A senior diplomat at the South Korean Embassy in Tokyo said Seoul will try to "smoothly handle the issue from the perspective of humanitarianism and based on their free will." He would not elaborate and declined to be identified because officials were still working on the case.

According to the coast guard, the nine said they departed North Korea last Thursday. Although the boat's engine was functioning when found, the group had run low on rations. The coast guard found a small amount of rice, some pickled vegetables and snacks. The group had run out of drinking water.

The coast guard towed the boat to the port in Kanazawa, about 180 miles (290 kilometers) west of Tokyo. The nine stayed overnight on a coast guard patrol vessel.

North Korean defectors typically cross over the North's porous border with China or drift in boats over the Yellow Sea dividing line between North and South Korea, but they rarely come as far as Japan.

Defections are a sensitive matter between the Koreas, which are still technically at war because their 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Earlier this year, North Korea lashed out at the South when four of 31 North Koreans on a boat that drifted into southern waters refused to return home. The North said the four were held against their will.

More than 21,000 North Koreans have defected to South Korea since the Korean War, according to South Korean government data.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Government: Kabul attack over, assailants killed

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Afghan government says the two-day insurgent assault in the heart of Kabul has ended and all the attackers have been killed. The Interior Ministry says the area around the building where attackers had been holed up is now safe. The head of the police unit overseeing the operation says that the last six attackers were killed inside the building at a major traffic circle in the Afghan capital. Abdul Ghafar Sayedzada says there are no remaining insurgents alive in the structure.

Police: India train collision kills 10

NEW DELHI (AP)—A passenger train collided with another train stopped at a signal in southern India, killing 10 people and injuring dozens more, police said Wednesday. Five train cars derailed in Tuesday's accident, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu state, said Shalendra Babu, a senior police official. By early Wednesday, the death toll stood at 10, police official K.M. Babu told The Associated Press. Another 52 people were injured, he added.

Man with ax kills 4 in central China attacks

BEIJING (AP)—A man with an ax attacked children and parents walking on a city street in central China on Wednesday, killing four people and wounding two, a local official said. Villagers have identified the perpetrator of the attack on the outskirts of the city of Gongyi as a local farmer with a history of mental illness, said a city government spokesman who declined to give his name, as is common among Chinese bureaucrats. The spokesman said one young girl was among those killed while another was seriously wounded when the alleged assailant, Wang Hongbin, began attacking people on a main street in Gongyi's Shecun township at about 8:40 a.m. (0040 GMT). The spokesman said Wang was detained but gave no other details.

World

Gadhafi's son, 3 generals in Niger ask for asylum

NIAMEY, Niger (AP)—A son of Moammar Gadhafi and three of his generals were trying to gain political asylum Wednesday in this poor, landlocked nation at Libya's feet, after a more than 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) drive across the vast desert that separates the two countries for what could be their only shot at refuge.

The generals are trying to pave the way for other Gadhafi supporters to follow, but one regime loyalist doubted that Gadhafi himself ever will, saying he would be comfortable enough living in the Sahara to stay there indefinitely.

"I know the Guide well, and what people don't realize is that he could last in the desert for years," Aghaly Alambo said, referring to Gadhafi. "He didn't need to create a hiding place. He likes the simple life, under a tent, sitting on the sand, drinking camel's milk. His advantage is that this was already his preferred lifestyle."

He added, "He is guarded by a special mobile unit made up of members of his family. Those are the only people he trusts."

Convoys carrying regime loyalists began arriving in Niger last week. The three generals, including the head of Gadhafi's air force and two of his regional commanders, reached Niamey, the capital, overnight Monday. They were joined Tuesday by al-Saadi Gadhafi, government spokesman Marou Amadou confirmed shortly after midnight on Wednesday.

AP

Tuareg rebel chief and Gadhafi insider, Aghaly Alambo speaks to Associated Press during an interview in Niamey, Niger, Tuesday, Sept, 13. 2011.

Alambo, a rebel leader from Niger who fought for Gadhafi and who led the first convoy across the desert, said the commanders were pushed to leave Libya after a total breakdown in communication with the ex-ruler. Gadhafi was last in contact with his military leaders 3 1/2 weeks ago and his whereabouts are not known, he said.

"It's been difficult because for some time now, there's been no communication in Libya—especially with our Guide. Maybe it's for his own safety. But for those of us in his entourage it's very difficult to know where he is? How he is? What is happening?" Alambo said at his home on the edge of this arid capital. "This has created a source of destabilization for his entourage."

The regime that Gadhafi tightly controlled for nearly 42 years unraveled once he was forced into hiding and no longer in touch with his field officers. Government officials say around 30 Libyan nationals including members of the fallen regime and their families are now in Niger.

Alambo, a member of the Tuareg ethnic group who became close to Gadhafi and is believed to have helped recruit dozens of Tuareg youths to fight during Libya's civil war, said there is no longer any coordination between the arms of the loyalist army.

He blamed last month's fall of Tripoli, the turning point of the civil war, on a betrayal by one of Gadhafi's trusted commanders. He said the head of security for Tripoli had defected to the rebel camp weeks earlier, even as he continued to lead the city's defense.

Instead of fighting, the commander ordered Gadhafi's troops to withdraw when the rebels were in sight, then passed on the GPS coordinates of remaining loyalist positions so NATO airstrikes could take them out, Alambo said. "It was at the very last minute that we realized there was no defense—there was nothing," he said.

Now, Alambo said, pro-Gadhafi forces are just hoping to save themselves.

He said members of Gadhafi's inner circle initially took cover in pro-Gadhafi bastions like Bani Walid and Sabha, but bolted for the border when they heard reports of brutal reprisal killings by former rebels, and when it became clear that Gadhafi could be in hiding for years.

Gadhafi's wife, daughter and several of his sons crossed into Algeria, prompting that country to close its border. The roads to Tunisia, Egypt, Chad and Sudan were too risky because portions are controlled by rebel forces. The only exit became Niger, through an ocean of white dunes, guided by Tuaregs like Alambo.

Richardson to leave Cuba bitter, with no prisoner

HAVANA (AP)—Former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said Tuesday that he would leave Cuba after exhausting all possible avenues to try to win the release of a jailed U.S. government subcontractor, adding that he was treated so poorly he doubted he could ever come back to the island as a friend.

Richardson, who previously vowed to remain in Cuba until he at least got to see jailed Maryland native Alan Gross, changed his mind after meetings with the Cuban government and other influential groups failed to yield any results. He said he would leave Wednesday.

"I have been here a week and tried through all means—with religious institutions, diplomats from other countries, all kinds of efforts—and I see that this isn't going to change," Richardson told reporters. "So why would I stay?"

It was a stunning reversal after word last week that the Democratic politician had been invited by Cuban authorities and was hoping to negotiate Gross' release.

Richardson, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations who had enjoyed warm relations with Cuba in the past, said he was disheartened and disillusioned by his treatment, and wondered aloud if President Raul Castro's government was aiming to deliberately scuttle better ties with Washington.

"I am very disappointed and surprised," Richardson said. "Perhaps the Cuban government has decided it does not want to improve relations. Perhaps that is the message it is sending."

Richardson spoke of his long-time affection for Cuba, its people and its culture, but said this trip has soured all that.

Richardson

"Unfortunately after this negative experience, I don't know if I could return here as a friend," he said. "The next step is up to the Cuban government, but they have not treated me like a friend."

Richardson has been hunkered down at the capital's Nacional hotel since last Wednesday, waiting for a response to his demand to visit Gross in a military hospital where the 62-year-old is being held. But high hopes for the trip evaporated quickly after Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez said he could not even meet with Gross, let alone take him home. Richardson's request to see Castro was also denied.

"The State Department is very disappointed because they did not let me see Alan Gross," Richardson said Tuesday.

Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said President Barack Obama's administration had been in touch with Richardson and regretted that his requests had been falling on deaf ears. Still, she said the trip wasn't a wasted effort.

"It certainly underscored the plight of Mr. Gross," she told reporters in Washington.

Richardson said Cuban officials did not even want to discuss Gross' case with him, or suggest how the standoff could be resolved.

"There were no demands. It was just an outright rejection of even a dialogue on what could be done," he said.

Richardson said he told the Cubans that if Gross were freed, it could be the impetus for renewed dialogue on a host of issues between the Cold War enemies.

Richardson said the response was clear: "'You will not take Alan Gross home. You cannot see him,'" officials told him. Cuba's rejection of even a visit with Gross appeared to signify a hardening of Havana's stance.

Bus-train crash kills 11, injures 212 in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—A bus driver gambled and tried to rush across railroad tracks Tuesday despite a barrier, bells and flashing lights, setting off a chain-reaction collision with two trains that killed 11 people and injured hundreds in Argentina's capital.

The shocking accident, captured on video, came as little surprise to many in Buenos Aires, where 440 people and 165 vehicles were hit by trains last year, causing a total of 269 deaths.

In the latest accident, the bus got halfway across the first track before an oncoming passenger train crushed it against a concrete station platform. The collision forced the train's first two cars off the rails and into another locomotive that was leaving the station in the other direction.

The bus driver was among those killed, and 212 were injured, including about 20 people in critical condition, said Alberto Crescenti, director-general of Argentina's emergency medical system. Nine people died at the scene, police said, and two others in hospitals, according to the city's health ministry.

The engineer in the train that hit the bus was trapped in the crumpled metal, and rescuers had to break his leg to get him out. He also broke a hip and his chest was crushed, though he is expected to survive, union leader Omar Maturano told The Associated Press. The other train's engineer was operated on for a foot injury.

Maturano blamed "how we are as Argentines, that we immediately lift the barriers and cross despite flashing warning signals."

"It's a cultural problem. There are many people who are accustomed to beating the train," he said.

Emergency officials were still trying to extricate bodies from under the wreckage hours after the crash.

The collision happened at 6:15 a.m. during the busy morning rush hour in the capital's densely populated Flores neighborhood, when many parents use public transportation to take their children to school. Children were among the injured, according to Argentine Transportation Secretary J.P. Schiavi.

There are hundreds of street-level train crossings in the Argentine capital, and their danger increases at rush hour, particularly next to stations, where trains can arrive every four minutes—so frequently that the crossing barriers remain down most of the time.

WORLD BRIEFS

Abuse victims seek int'l court case against pope

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Clergy sex abuse victims upset that no high-ranking Roman Catholic leaders have been prosecuted for sheltering guilty priests have turned to the International Criminal Court, seeking an investigation of the pope and top Vatican cardinals for possible crimes against humanity. The Vatican called the move a "ludicrous publicity stunt." The Center for Constitutional Rights, a New York-based nonprofit legal group, requested the inquiry Tuesday on behalf of the U.S.-based Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, arguing that the global church has maintained a "long-standing and pervasive system of sexual violence" despite promises to swiftly oust predators.

Iran's president: 2 Americans could be freed soon

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's president predicted Tuesday that two Americans arrested while hiking along the Iraq-Iran border and sentenced to eight years in jail on espionage-related charges could be freed "in a couple of days" after a court set bail of $500,000 each. The events appeared timed to boost the image of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad coinciding with his visit to New York next week for the U.N. General Assembly session. Last year, a third American was released on bail around the same time. In Washington, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the United States was "encouraged" by Ahmadinejad's comments about freeing Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal.

Casey Anthony's lawyer joins defense in Aruba case

ORANJESTAD, Aruba (AP)—The lawyer who gained fame in the Casey Anthony murder trial in Florida said Tuesday that he will now help a U.S. businessman jailed in Aruba in the presumed death of his travel companion. Jose Baez said he has been retained to defend Gary Giordano in the Dutch Caribbean island. Baez confirmed his hiring in a text message to The Associated Press but declined to provide details about his role in the Aruba case.

Focus

New global killers: heart, lung disease and cancer

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

AP

In this 2002 photo provided by the family, Wondu Bekele sits with his son Mathiwos outside the the Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He died eight months later because of cancer in September 2003 at the age of four. The desperate father had called St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the United States for advice, procured chemotherapy drugs from India, and against all odds, got his son treated for leukemia. Yet the little boy died because the hospital had no separate ward to keep vulnerable cancer patients from catching other patients' diseases. The father founded a cancer society in his son's name. The U.N. General Assembly in Sept. 2011 will hold its first summit on chronic diseases–cancer, diabetes and heart and lung disease. Those account for nearly two-thirds of deaths worldwide and nearly 9 out of 10 in the United States. They have common risk factors, such as smoking and sedentary lifestyles, and many are preventable.

What's killing us? For decades, global health leaders have focused on diseases that can spread—AIDS, tuberculosis, new flu bugs. They pushed for vaccines, better treatments and other ways to control germs that were only a plane ride away from seeding outbreaks anywhere in the world.

Now they are turning to a new set of culprits causing what United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon calls "a public health emergency in slow motion." This time, germs aren't the target: We are, along with our bad habits like smoking, overeating and too little exercise.

Next week, the U.N. General Assembly will hold its first summit on chronic diseases—cancer, diabetes and heart and lung disease. Those account for nearly two-thirds of deaths worldwide, or about 36 million. In the United States, they kill nearly 9 out of 10 people. They have common risk factors, such as smoking and sedentary lifestyles, and many are preventable.

It's hard to fathom the suffering these maladies are causing in some parts of the world.

For example, until a few years ago Ethiopia had one cancer specialist, Dr. Bogale Solomon, for more than 80 million people.

"Now three more oncologists have joined," he said, and these four doctors struggle to treat patients in a country where cancer drugs and even painkillers are in short supply.

Wondu Bekele took his 2-year-old son, Mathiwos, to that lone cancer center in Addis Ababa when the boy developed leukemia. The desperate father got advice from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the United States, procured chemotherapy drugs from India, and against all odds, got his son treated. Yet the little boy died because the hospital had no separate ward to protect him from catching disease from other patients. The father founded a cancer society in his son's name and will represent cancer groups at the U.N. meeting.

"Practically all cancer-related medicines are either nonexistent or beyond the reach of ordinary Ethiopians," he said. "We are struggling to make a difference here."

Advocates may be struggling to make a difference at the U.N., too. Key officials have been unable to agree before the meeting on specific goals—reducing certain diseases or risk factors such as smoking by a specific amount and date. With the global economy in turmoil, finding money to meet any goals could be an even bigger hurdle.

"The timing is difficult with the economy the way it is, but it should not prevent us from setting goals," said Dr. Sidney Smith, who heads the World Heart Federation, an umbrella group of more than 200 organizations focused on heart disease.

"Many of the things we're proposing cost very little" and some, such as smoking cessation, even save money, said Smith, a cardiologist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "We're not talking about trying to find a new magic bullet. We're just talking about behavior and cost-effective medicines" like aspirin and generic blood pressure drugs that lower the risk of multiple diseases, he said.

This is only the second time the U.N. has taken up a health issue. The previous one in 2001 led to creation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, with billions from governments and private groups such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Now even rich nations are cash-strapped, and it's unclear whether private groups will step in. Asked whether the U.N. meeting would alter its focus, the Gates Foundation indicated it would not.

"Unfortunately, there is a lack of comparable investment in infectious diseases, which disproportionately affect the world's poorest," said a statement from the foundation. "Our priority will continue to be investing in cost-effective treatments that lead to maximum impact and fill in a gap where other resources are not invested."

However, advocates say there are disparities in chronic diseases, too.

"The common belief that cancer is a problem of rich countries is a misconception," said Dr. Eduardo Cazap, president of the Union For International Cancer Control.

Dr. Ala Alwan, assistant director-general of the World Health Organization, agreed.

"Most countries in Africa are currently overwhelmed with their increasing demand" from cancer patients, and the region also has the highest rates of stroke and high blood pressure in the world, Alwan said.

In Ghana, 23 million people are served by two oncology centers; the country has four cancer doctors and no specialist cancer nurses, said Dr. Allen Lichter, CEO of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, an organization of cancer specialists. The society has trained more than 2,000 doctors in developing countries on cancer care and plans to do more.

Africa also remains the only region in the world where infectious diseases, maternal-infant health problems and poor nutrition still kill more people than noncommunicable diseases do.

Worldwide, stroke and heart-related diseases account for nearly half of all noninfectious disease deaths—17 million in 2008 alone, WHO says. Next is cancer (7.6 million deaths), followed by respiratory diseases such as emphysema (4.2 million). Diabetes caused 1.3 million deaths in 2008, but that's misleading—most diabetics die of cardiovascular causes.

The U.N. chose to focus on those four diseases and their common risk factors: tobacco use, alcohol abuse, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity and environmental carcinogens.

They have varied impact around the world:

-Europe and North America. These regions are paying the price of too much eating, too little exercise and smoking: heart disease and diabetes dominate. Cancers that are more prevalent with age—breast and prostate—reflect long life spans in these regions where treatment is widely available. In Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, lung cancer is the dominant cancer in men. Europe has the highest smoking prevalence in the world: 29 percent.

-Asia. Southeast Asia has the lowest rates of obesity in the world, even lower than Africa. Yet in China, where only 6 percent of the population is obese, nearly 4 in 10 people have high blood pressure. China also has three times the death rate from respiratory diseases as the United States. Many areas also have high rates of infection with HPV, a sexually spread virus that can cause cervical cancer.

In India, the government has launched an aggressive diabetes and high blood pressure screening project. There are 51 million diabetics in India, the second-highest incidence in the world after China. Lung cancer is the most common type of cancer in India among men; in women, it's cervical cancer.

-Central and South America. Cancer prevalence patterns largely resemble North America except that cervical cancer dominates among women in certain areas. Access to care is much poorer in many countries. Dr. Angel Sanchez, an International Cancer Corps volunteer for the American Society of Clinical Oncology, told of conditions at a hospital in Honduras, where there are more than 700 new cancer cases every year for two oncologists to handle.

John Seffrin, CEO of the American Cancer Society, said the U.N. session must lead to specific goals and more money, or a chance to make a difference with these diseases may be lost for decades.

"This is our moment in the sun," he said. "A resolution alone is insufficient."

AP

In this Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2004 file photo, spectators stand beside a cut-out of former Pakistani cricketer Wasim Akram, a diabetic patient, holding a blood-glucose monitoring system, during a road show for diabetes awareness in Calcutta, India. The U.N. General Assembly in Sept. 2011 will hold its first summit on chronic diseases - cancer, diabetes and heart and lung disease. Those account for nearly two-thirds of deaths worldwide and nearly 9 out of 10 in the United States. They have common risk factors, such as smoking and sedentary lifestyles, and many are preventable.

Environment

Nissan develops cheaper, smaller charger for EVs

TOKYO (AP)—Nissan has developed a charger for electric vehicles that's smaller, about half the price, and easier to install.

Nissan Motor Co., Japan's No. 2 automaker, said Monday the new charger will go on sale in November in Japan and is planned later for the U.S. and Europe, although dates are not set.

The basic model of the revamped charger will cost about half the price of the current model, which is stockier and has more parts, and costs 1.47 million yen ($19,000). The higher-grade model for outdoors will also be cheaper and cost under 1 million yen ($13,000), according to Nissan.

Yokohama-based Nissan, which makes the Leaf electric vehicle, is targeting sales of 5,000 of the new chargers in Japan by the end of March 2016.

Zero-emission electric vehicles are drawing attention amid concerns about global warming and the environment. The Leaf is among the pioneering models in the technology.

But electric vehicles still make up a niche market. They have to be recharged, and recharging stations aren't that plentiful. Owners generally have to go through the trouble of installing a recharger in their homes.

Right now, Leafs are being sold to mostly local governments rather than regular consumers.

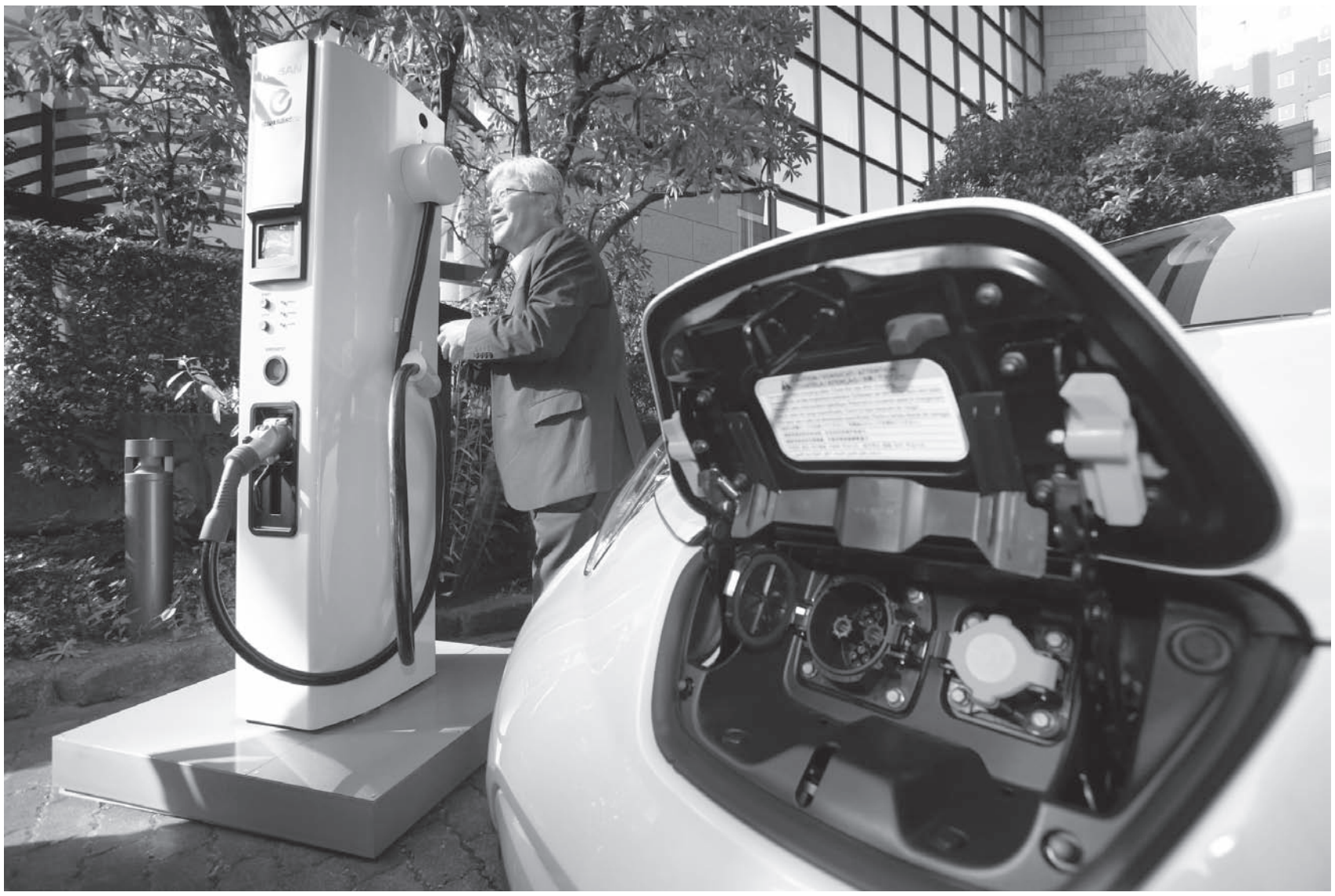
The difficulty of installing chargers, which look like the filling machines at gas stations, is another reason.

Nissan is hoping to sell the new chargers to highways, airports, shopping centers, convenience stores and gas stations, it said.

Nissan has sold more than 13,600 Leaf cars around the world since they went on sale in December 2010. There are now 619 chargers throughout Japan, 32 percent, or 196, in the Nissan group, while the rest are with local governments, highways and other companies that promote EVs.

Competition in electric vehicles is likely to intensify in coming years as others, such as Japanese rival Toyota Motor Corp., enter the sector.

Toyota already offers plug-in hybrid cars, which run partly as EVs but switch to become regular hybrids with gas engines when they run out of the electric charge.



AP

Nissan Motor Co. chief vehicle engineer Hidetoshi Kadota explains how to use a new charger to charge a Nissan's electric vehicle during a media event unveiling the charger in Tokyo, Monday, Sept. 12, 2011.

Engineered salmon still a distant reality

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Members of Congress are pushing to stop the Food and Drug Administration from approving genetically engineered salmon, saying not enough is known about a fish they say could harm fishery businesses in coastal states.

It appeared last year that the FDA might approve the engineered salmon quickly. But the congressional pushback and a lack of action by the FDA could mean the fish won't be on the nation's dinner tables any time soon.

The fish, which grows twice as fast as the conventional variety, is engineered by AquaBounty, a Massachusetts-based company, but not yet allowed on the market. The company's application has been pending for more than 15 years. If the agency approves it, it would be the first time the government allows such modified animals to be marketed for people to eat.

Congressional opposition to the engineered fish is led by members of the Alaska delegation. They see the modified salmon as a threat to the state's wild salmon industry.

In June, the House adopted an amendment by Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, to an agriculture spending bill that would prevent the FDA from spending any money on approving the fish. His amendment was approved by voice vote with no objections.

AP

A tribal fisherman hauls in a salmon with a gill-net Wednesday,, Sept. 7, 2011, along the Columbia River, near Hood River, Ore.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, said last week she will attempt to add the same amendment to the Senate version of the bill.

"It kind of gives me the heebie jeebies that we are messing with what Mother Nature did a pretty good job with in terms of a king salmon," Murkowski said.

While Murkowski's opposition is rooted in concern for her state's fishing industry, other senators have expressed worries about potential food safety or environmental risks. More than a dozen senators have written the FDA with concern about the approval process and food safety and environmental risks. Bills to stop the salmon have been introduced in both chambers.

Ron Stotish, the chief executive of AquaBounty, said he was optimistic when the FDA decided to hold hearings on the company's application. But a year later, he said, he is frustrated by the delay and has lost investors in his business.

"If you had asked me a year ago if we would be having this conversation, I would have said no," he said.

The FDA is still in the process of completing their review, spokesman Doug Karas said, "although we cannot predict when that will be."

Karas said the FDA is planning on releasing a review of potential environmental impacts of growing the salmon—and soliciting public comments on that review—before reaching a decision. That means a decision could be months or even years away.

In the hearings last year, FDA officials said the fish is as safe to eat as the traditional variety. But critics call the modified salmon a "frankenfish." They say they are concerned it could cause human allergies and the eventual decimation of the wild salmon population if the engineered animals escape.

AquaBounty has maintained that the fish is safe and that there are several safeguards against environmental problems. The fish would be bred female and sterile, though a very small percentage might still be able to breed. The company said potential for escape is low. The FDA backed these assertions in documents released before these hearings last year.

Genetically engineered—or GE—animals are not clones, which the FDA has already said are safe to eat. Clones are copies of an animal. In GE animals, the DNA has been altered to produce a desirable characteristic. The process is common in plant foods like corn and soybeans.

In the case of the salmon, AquaBounty has added a growth hormone from a Chinook salmon that allows the fish to produce growth hormone all year long. The engineers were able to keep the hormone active by using another gene from an eel-like fish called an ocean pout that acts like an on switch for the hormone. Typical salmon produce the growth hormone only some of the time.

Stotish acknowledged that approval of AquaBounty's product is likely more difficult because they are the first. Approval of the company's application would open the door for a variety of other genetically engineered animals, including an "Enviropig" being developed in Canada that has less-polluting manure or cattle that are resistant to mad cow disease. Each would have to be individually approved by the FDA.

"Blocking us is the best way to block anything that would come behind us," Stotish said.

Life & Style

Executors to give $30 million to Jackson heirs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two years after Michael Jackson died deeply in debt, his estate has generated more than $310 million, enabling executors to distribute a preliminary payment of $30 million to Jackson's mother and children, and to unnamed charities, according to court documents filed Tuesday.

Jackson

Executors also disclosed that Jackson's mother, Katherine, is putting the family's fabled Encino compound up for sale and wants the executors to negotiate the purchase of a new residence for her and the children, Paris, Prince and Michael Joseph Jr., known as Blanket.

The Encino property, where Jackson grew up and where several of his siblings lived in a cottage near their parents' home was appraised at $4.15 million in 2010 but has since undergone extensive renovation. Katherine Jackson and the children moved out and have been living at a leased Calabasas home that is for sale for about $10 million. The executors said Katherine Jackson has identified a number of homes in that price range that would suit her needs and that of the children.

The executors said the trust and the California attorney general's office, which is representing charities as beneficiaries of the estate, have been pressing for distribution of funds.

The executors, John Branca and John McClain, filed a detailed accounting of finances since Jackson's death on June 25, 2009. By the end of last year, the estate had produced more than $310 million in gross revenues. "Since that date, the estate assets have continued to generate additional income," the executors said.

Notably, they said they were able to refinance and secure the estate's interest in the Michael Jackson music catalog, Mijac, and the Sony/ATV publishing catalog, which includes portions of the Beatles catalog.

They said they reduced debt obligations by more than $90 million and refinanced loans at lower interest rates. They also benefited from the release of the posthumous concert film, "This Is It," and said they were able to pay off dozens of approved creditors' claims as well as Jackson's income taxes. Some creditor claims remain open, according to the documents, but the deadline for filing claims against the estate has passed.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Our sincere apologize for a very big mistake on the first announcement of the obituary that was published on September 8, 2011. Especially to our Mother, Estela Evangelista Delos Reyes yan todus I man tineteka'

†ANTONIO SN. DELOS REYES

October 14, 1938 — September 01, 2011

Continuation of Mass and Holy Rosary are being held from September 10, 2011 until September 17, 2011. Mass is being offered nightly at 6:00 p.m. at the San Vicente Church. On Sunday Sept. 18, 2011 Mass will be offered at 9:00 a.m. at the San Vicente Church and Holy Rosary will be said at 12NOON at the residence of Martin E. Reyes in Cha Cha Rd., Kagman II, followed immediately by lunch.

In his new life, he now joins his:
Parents: Pedro Cruz Delos Reyes
Milagro San Nicolas Delos Reyes
Daughter: Milagro Evangelista Reyes
Brothers and Sisters: Rita Reyes Santos, Andres SN. Reyes, Maria Reyes Lizama, Pedro SN. Reyes, Maria Blas Camacho

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his
First Wife: ESTELA EVANGELISTA DELOS REYES
Children and Families:
Martin E. Reyes and Begonia Reyes (Manuela/ Derek [MM, Mike, Derek Jr.], Edwin, Martin Jr., Estela Marie, Angie, Anastacia and Jesse Steven)
Alfredo E. Reyes and Keity Santos (Alfredo/ Alicia – Kona, Jerome and Kiona Joy), (Lorina – Lorenzo, RedJay and Mayson), (Freddy – Crystal – Kaleah and Daryl Jeffery), Tina, Ricky, Losana, Suzie, Shawn, Asunsion, Ioalaina, Mathew and Regina
Maria R. Vongsa (Lynda – James), Dennis, Meling, Peter, Jerry, Trisha, Michelle, Kioni Jeffay and Daniel Jerome
Bernadita E. Reyes
Antonia R. Swims (Lenny, Johnny and David)
Antonio E. Reyes (Anthony, Stacey, Meling, Bridgette and Angel)
David E. Reyes and Remy (David Jr., Marilyn, Christian Dion and Charles)
James E. Reyes (Jamee/ Justin- Jaytin), Jamia, and (James Jr.-Nickolas)
Richard E. Reyes and Elizabeth (Angel)
Ramon Evangelista and Dolores Evangelista (Merosina, Shellysalea, Ramon Jr. and Virgil)

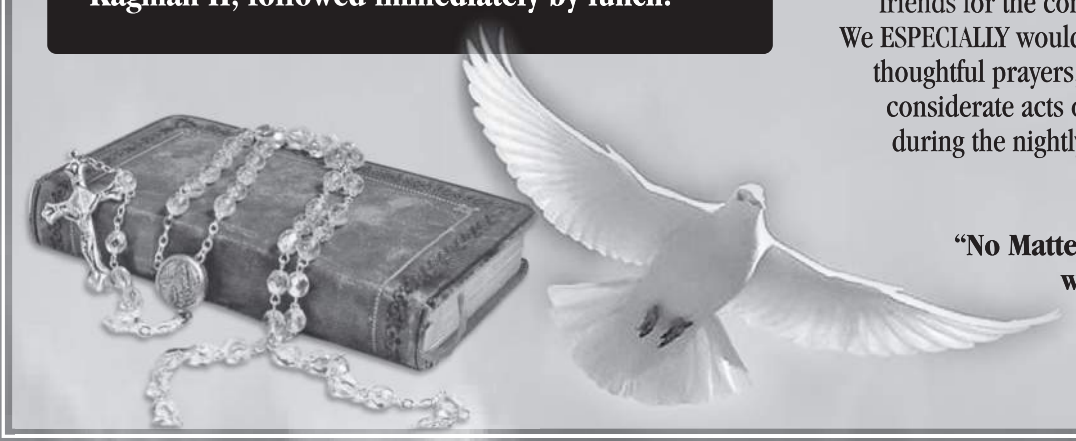
Second wife: AMELIA GALANG DELOS REYES,
Children and Families:
Maritoni G. Delos Reyes
Arlyn G. Manaloto and Felix (Alexis Damelle M. Salundaguit)
Catherine G. Macatlang (Marilet Faye Macatlang)
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws
†Rita Reyes Santos and †Pedro Hocog Santos, Children & Families
†Maria Reyes Lizama and Donicio M. Lizama, Children & Families
Jose San Nicolas Delos Reyes and Emerenciana R. Reyes, Children & Families
†Andres San Nicolas Delos Reyes and Families
†Pedro San Nicolas Delos Reyes and †Remedio O. Reyes, Children & Families
†Maria Blas Camacho and †Antonio T. Camacho, Children & Families

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late
†ANTONIO SAN NICOLAS DELOS REYES
Wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all our families, relatives and friends for the compassion you showed us during our time of sorrow. We ESPECIALLY would like to acknowledge and thank all of you for the many thoughtful prayers, words of comfort, and unending support and other considerate acts of grace extended to us. Your presence and prayers during the nightly rosaries, funeral mass, and the burial has helped us endure our great loss.

"No Matter where you are and no matter how far, we are of one spirit in prayers."

Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Thank You
The Family



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$4.50	All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$5.75	Student Admission with Valid I.D.
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$5.75 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

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Friday, Sept. 9th through Thursday, Sept. 15th, 2011

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

Contagion

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:25	

Matt Damon, Marion Cottilard

Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Steven Soderbergh presents this look at what happens when an infectious disease threatens humanity through varied viewpoints from an ensemble cast, including Marion Cotillard, Matt Damon, Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow, Laurence Fishburne, and Kate Winslet. The Informant's Scott Z. Burns provides the script.

Apollo 18

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Gonzalo López-Gallego, director

Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

NASA's cancelled trip to the moon in the 1970s is the basis for this found footage-style picture exploring what if the urban legend were true that the mission actually did occur and the proof of extraterrestrial life exists on film. Wanted's Timur Bekmambetov produces the film, with Spanish director Gonzalo Lopez-Gallego taking on helming duties.

★ ★ ★

Shark Night 2D

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Sinqua Walls, Chris Carmack

Horror • Rated PG 13

Don't Be Afraid Of The Dark

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:40
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:40
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:30	

Guy Pearce, Katie Holmes

Horror • Rated R

Conan The Barbarian

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:10	

Jason Momoa, Rachel Nichols

Action Fantasy • Rated R

Spy Kids: All The Time In The World

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Jessica Alba, Joel McHale

Spy film, Adventure • Rated PG

Rise of the Planet of the Apes

Friday		4:20	7:20	10:00
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	10:00
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:20	

James Franco, Freida Pinto

Science fiction • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

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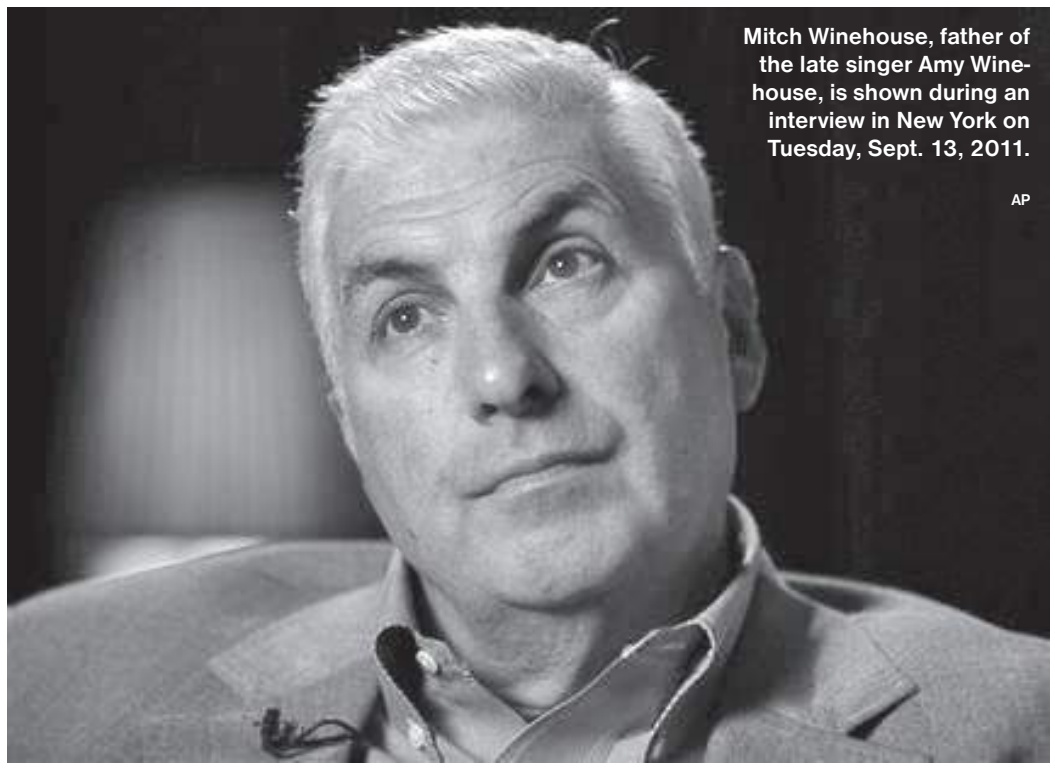
Winehouse's father says he fought to get her clean



Mitch Winehouse, father of the late singer Amy Winehouse, is shown during an interview in New York on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Amy Winehouse's father says the fight to get her off drugs often turned physical, as he tussled with the drug dealers and gangsters who were supplying his daughter with them.

"I spent my time fighting with drug dealers, and I mean proper fighting," Mitch Winehouse said in an interview Tuesday with The Associated Press. "And I'm a middle-aged man, who is overweight, having fistfights with people."

Winehouse said his daughter finally budged once she saw how hurt her family was: "She witnessed all this stuff going on, of how her family and her friends were fighting gangsters and she decided she didn't want to put her family in that position anymore."

Amy Winehouse, who had struggled with drug and alcohol addiction, was found dead at her London home on July 23. Her father is launching The Amy Winehouse Foundation on Wednesday, which would've been the singer's 28th birthday.

Mitch Winehouse said there were some negative influences in the group that surrounded Amy. He said he was naive about her drug use early on.

"I didn't know the extent of her problem until maybe four months before she decided to quit," he said.

Winehouse - who has been doing interviews and has appeared on TV to talk about the U.S. launch of the foundation - said talking about his daughter is "very hard," but it "is helping us deal with our grief." He made various appearances with Amy's mother, Janis; his current wife, Jane; and Amy's last boyfriend, Reg Traviss.

"I don't know what her ultimate plans were, but she was certainly talking to me about having children," Winehouse said of his daughter's last relationship. "Even when she was drinking, she was in a great place."

Winehouse believes his daughter died of a seizure related to alcohol detoxification. She had seizures in the past, he said. A full inquest into her death begins next month.

Mitch Winehouse, who is also a musician, was in New York for a performance when his daughter died. He said he struggles to listen to her music, especially her critically acclaimed, multiplatinum album "Back to Black," which won five Grammy Awards and is the U.K.'s best-selling album of the 21st century. It featured songs about Amy's addiction and relationship with ex-husband Blake Fielder-Civil.

"I can't sit down and listen to her music," he said. "I couldn't ever listen to `Back to Black' anyway because it reminded me of dark times."

But since her death, Mitch Winehouse said, he is beginning to realize his daughter's musical talents.

"I took everything for granted, I didn't appreciate what a great singer she was, and now I do," he said, getting teary-eyed.

And he still wants to release his own music. Winehouse said initially after Amy's death, he told his wife, "I never want to sing again, ever."

But he said recording music has been therapeutic for him, and he hopes to release more, with all the proceeds going to the foundation in his daughter's name, which will assist disadvantaged children and young adults. He said he's able to focus on that side of his life since his daughter left their family financial stable.

"Amy left us in a very fortunate position as a family," said Mitch Winehouse, who worked as a London taxi driver. "Being a London taxi driver is a great thing, but I don't have to do that for a living anymore."

Amy Winehouse is featured on the Tony Bennett duet "Body and Soul"; the song and music video were released Wednesday and some of its sales will profit the late singer's foundation. Mitch Winehouse said there is unreleased music from his daughter that he eventually hopes to make available.

Amy Winehouse charity launches on her birthday

LONDON (AP)—Amy Winehouse's family has launched a youth charity in her name to mark what would have been the singer's 28th birthday.

Winehouse, who had long fought drug and alcohol problems, was found dead at her London home on July 23. Her family says toxicology reports indicated there was alcohol in her bloodstream but it was unclear whether this had contributed to her death.

The soul diva's father, Mitch Winehouse, says the Amy Winehouse Foundation will support organizations that help young people who are vulnerable, including those with addictions.

Her mother Janis said: "It is a source of great comfort to know that Amy would be proud of this."

The charity will derive much of its first income from the release of Winehouse's duet with Tony Bennett, "Body And Soul," on Wednesday.

LA painter's bank on fire work heats up art world

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Alex Schaefer is the hot Los Angeles artist of the moment, thanks to a couple of oil-on-canvas works showing banks burning down.

Although his work has been displayed at several galleries over the years, Schaefer was mostly an obscure figure in the art world whose pieces rarely fetched more than $1,000.

That was until he painted a picture of a nondescript bank on a run-of-the-mill San Fernando Valley street.

With flames leaping through the bank's roof, the work began to take on a look similar to Ed Ruscha's acclaimed 1966 "Burning Gas Station." Schaefer says several passers-by stopped to give him a thumb's up.

Some, however, called police after their suspicions were aroused.

Offers for the painting began pouring in after the Los Angeles Times reported last month that authorities wanted to know if Schaefer planned to burn the bank down. He got so many offers that he decided to put the 22-by-28-inch oil on canvas up for auction on eBay.

A German art collector who wishes to remain anonymous bought it last week for $25,200.

Schaefer says he told the police officers who visited him outside the Chase branch, and those who came to his home later, that the paintings were meant to be a metaphor for the financial havoc the banking industry has created.

Several police detectives said Tuesday they didn't know if the case was still under investigation, but hadn't heard that it was.

Schaefer, who teaches painting and drawing at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, said Tuesday he is still in shock about his newfound success.

"I was confronted like a little mini-celebrity," the ebullient artist said, describing his arrival at Art Center on Monday to begin a new semester. "My class filled up within an hour. The teachers were going `Atta boy!' What a scene!"

After selling his painting of the Chase bank branch, Schaefer decided to list a second, much smaller work that he painted while visiting his neighborhood Starbucks.

That one, just 6-by-8 inches, shows a burning Bank of America, a corporation with a bottom line that appears to be going up in smoke these days with its announcement that it's laying off 30,000 employees after taking a huge hit in the mortgage meltdown.

That painting sold for more than $3,500.

"I really do feel very passionately about it," Schaefer said of the economic woes he blames on big banks.

The prolific artist's subjects aren't limited to banks, however. They run the gamut from portraits to landscapes to a series he did on cupcakes.

The 41-year-old artist says his greatest influences are the Old Masters, although he is flattered by the comparison to Ruscha.

Lady Gaga, Usher to perform at Clinton's concert

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lady Gaga, Usher, The Edge and Bono will be among the performers at a Los Angeles concert celebrating the 10th anniversary of former President Bill Clinton's foundation.

The musicians will perform at "A Decade of Difference: A Concert Celebrating 10 Years of the William J. Clinton Foundation" on Oct. 15 at the Hollywood Bowl. Other performers will be announced later.

Clinton said in a statement Tuesday that he is "proud that some of today's most influential performers are coming together to raise awareness about the work of my foundation."

The concert will be streamed live on Yahoo.com.

For the past decade, Clinton's foundation has sought to improve global health, strengthen economies worldwide, promote healthier childhoods and protect the environment.

AP

In this July 4, 2011 file photo, singer Lady Gaga attends a news conference in Taipei, Taiwan to promote her new album "Born This Way."

MusiCares to honor Paul McCartney next year

NEW YORK (AP)—Paul McCartney will be honored as MusiCares person of the year during Grammy week next year.

The former Beatle will not only be honored for his music but also for his charitable side. Recording Academy President and CEO Neil Portnow says McCartney "exemplifies the phrase `artist/philanthropist.'"

The annual event celebrates a legend in the days before the Grammy Awards. Previous honorees include Aretha Franklin, Barbra Streisand and Neil Diamond. An array of music stars pay tribute by singing their songs, and the honoree sometimes performs as well.

MusiCares helps musicians who are struggling due to financial, medical or other reasons. McCartney says he's privileged to try and make the world a better place through charity and he's honored by the MusiCares tribute.

The announcement was made Tuesday.

The awards will be presented in Los Angeles.

AP

In this May 2, 2011 file photo, recording artist Paul McCartney, right, and Nancy Shevell arrive at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala in New York.

Hugh Jackman to return to Broadway with old songs

NEW YORK (AP)—The title says it all—"Hugh Jackman, Back on Broadway."

The Tony Award-winner plans to bring his one-man show to the Broadhurst Theatre on 44th Street from Oct. 25 to Jan. 1.

Jackman will be accompanied by an 18-piece orchestra and will perform his favorite musical numbers. He's already fine-tuned the show in San Francisco and Toronto.

Jackman was in Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" at the National Theatre in London and made his Broadway debut portraying the 1970s singer-songwriter Peter Allen in "The Boy From Oz," for which he received the 2004 Tony.

The actor, who plays Wolverine in the "X-Men" movie franchise, was last on Broadway in 2009 with Daniel Craig in "A Steady Rain."

AP

In this theater image released by Boneau/Bryan-Brown, actor Hugh Jackman is shown.

Rapper pleads guilty to battery, will go to jail

DECATUR, Ga. (AP)—Authorities in suburban Atlanta say rapper Gucci Mane will serve six months in jail after pleading guilty to battery and other charges.

DeKalb County Solicitor-General Sherry Boston said Tuesday that Mane, whose real name is Radric Delantic Davis, pleaded guilty to two counts of battery, two counts of reckless conduct and one count of disorderly conduct.

A police report said Davis pushed 36-year-old Diana Graham out of his Hummer as it rolled down a suburban Atlanta street on Jan. 28.

State Court Judge Eleanor Ross sentenced the rapper to serve six months in custody followed by several months on probation.

The judge also ordered him to complete 12 weeks of anger management classes; pay $5,091 in restitution to the woman for her medical bills; and pay a $3,000 fine.

Live broadcast of 'Phantom of the Opera' planned

AP

In this image released by Rubinstein Public Relations, Ramin Karimloo portrays the Phantom in a scene from the "The Phantom of the Opera" sequel "Love Never Dies."

NEW YORK (AP)—To mark its 25th anniversary, "The Phantom of the Opera" is coming to a movie theater near you.

Producers will broadcast a special performance of the show from London's Royal Albert Hall to movie houses in America, the UK, Europe, Japan and Australia. A live performance on Oct. 2 will be followed by rebroadcasts on Oct. 5, 6 and 11.

Ramin Karimloo and Sierra Boggess, who co-starred in the "Phantom" sequel "Love Never Dies," will reunite for the special presentation. More than 200 original and current cast members are expected to make appearances.

"The Phantom of the Opera" is currently showing in London at Her Majesty's Theatre as well as New York, Budapest, Las Vegas and Kyoto. It has grossed over $5.6 billion worldwide.

Sneaking snacks into movie sets poor example for kids

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I go to movies occasionally with my niece "Connie" and her two kids. Although the theater has a sign "No Outside Food or Drinks Allowed," Connie sneaks snacks in in her oversized purse, then doles them out after the lights go down. I'm not talking about a couple of candy bars; she brings bags of candy, chips and cans of soda.

While I agree with my niece that the price of refreshments is outrageous, I also believe it's the theater operators' prerogative to set prices and policy. I suggested Connie skip the snacks during the movie and take the kids out for ice cream afterward, but she said she didn't want to "deprive" them. When I offered to pay, she said it wasn't about the money, it was "the principle, and besides, "everybody else does it."

I feel my niece is teaching her kids it's OK to break rules you find inconvenient as long as you can get away with it. I enjoy the outings with them so I've dropped the subject for the sake of harmony, but it still bothers me. Connie probably thinks I'm a critical old crank who's out of step with the times. I'd love your opinion.

PAYING FOR MY POPCORN IN OREGON

DEAR PAYING: Here it is: Your thinking is spot on. Your niece's behavior is dishonest, and children model their behavior on the example set by their parents. Connie's excuse that everybody does it is a cop-out. Because "everyone" does something doesn't make it right.

Theater owners earn a large portion of their profits not from ticket sales, but from their concession stands. I am often struck by the amount of food I see purchased before people enter a theater—large tubs of popcorn, king-sized candy bars, bucket-sized soft drinks and nachos. What does this say about us?

Obesity is at record levels in the U.S. We are repeatedly cautioned not to eat in front of the television set. The munching going on in theaters is another example of mindless, compulsive eating.

If Connie doesn't want to "deprive" her children, she should feed them a healthy meal before they go to the movie so they won't be hungry. That's my opinion, so I'm glad you asked me.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: After six years of marriage I am seven months pregnant. I never wanted children and did not expect this to happen. I am determined to be an excellent mother, but it's an intellectual exercise for me. I feel nothing for this baby and I have a hard time imagining our future. I also hate being pregnant.

I can't find any websites for women like me—they're filled with women cooing over their bellies and fantasizing over their babies-to-be. I mentioned my feelings (or lack thereof) to my husband and he became furious with me. Is there something wrong with me?

LACKS THE MOTHERING GENE

DEAR LACKS: No, there's nothing "wrong" with you. You're just not particularly maternal. I'm sure many women have felt as you do because more than half the pregnancies in the U.S. are "unplanned."

Discuss this with your obstetrician to be sure you're not suffering from pre-partum depression. When your baby arrives I am sure that you will fall in love with him or her as many other mothers have. Your husband may have reacted the way he did because he felt it was in some way a rejection of him, or because he DOES want children.

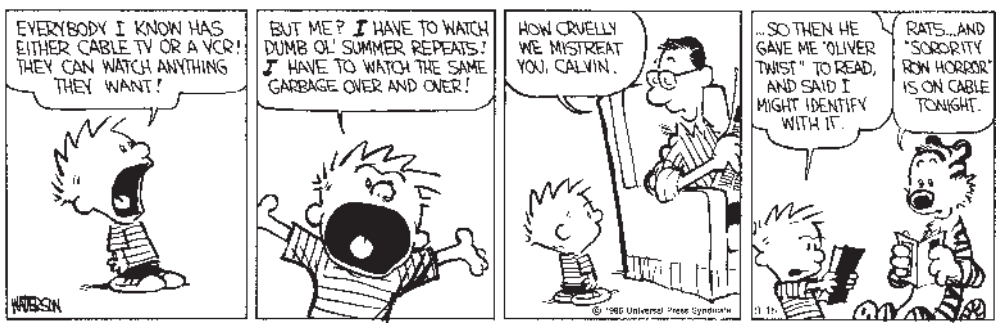
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


EVERYBODY I KNOW HAS EITHER CABLE TV OR A VCR! THEY CAN WATCH ANYTHING THEY WANT!
BUT ME? I HAVE TO WATCH DUMB OL' SUMMER REPEATS! I HAVE TO WATCH THE SAME GARBAGE OVER AND OVER!
HOW CRUELLY WE MISTREAT YOU, CALVIN.
...SO THEN HE GAVE ME "OLIVER TWIST" TO READ, AND SAID I MIGHT IDENTIFY WITH IT.
RATS...AND "SORORITY RON HORROR" IS ON CABLE TONIGHT.
WATERSON
© 1986 Universal Press Syndicate

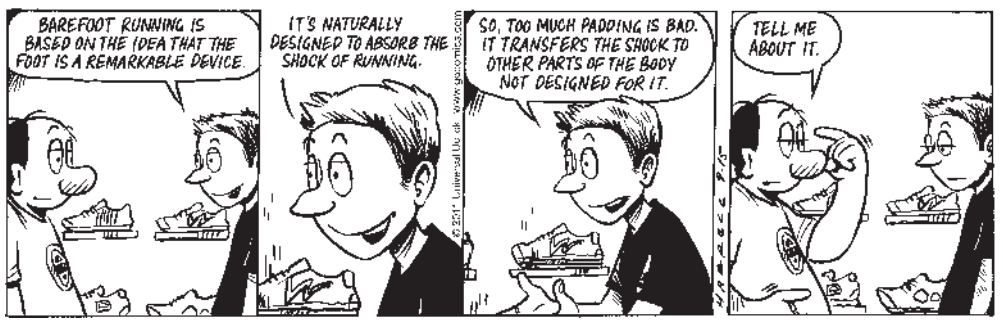
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

HOW COME YOU DON'T BAT ME ANYMORE?
UH, I'D RATHER NOT SAY
YOU THINK I'M FAT, DON'T YOU?!!
JIM DAVIS 9-15
Distributed by Universal Uclick

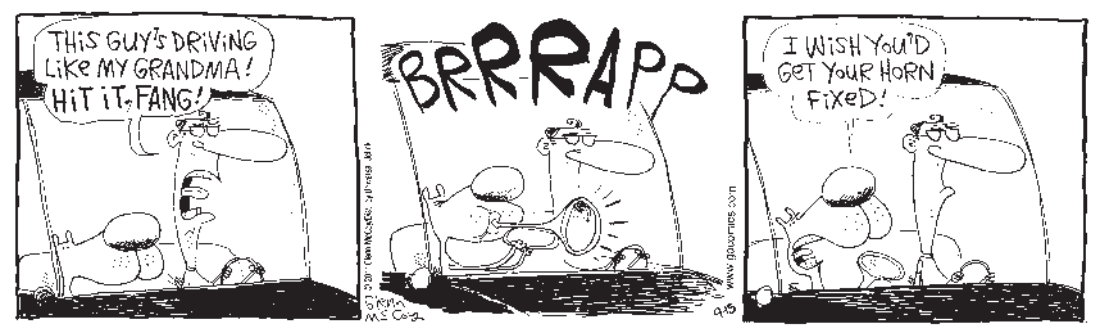
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


BAREFOOT RUNNING IS BASED ON THE IDEA THAT THE FOOT IS A REMARKABLE DEVICE.
IT'S NATURALLY DESIGNED TO ABSORB THE SHOCK OF RUNNING.
SO, TOO MUCH PADDING IS BAD. IT TRANSFERS THE SHOCK TO OTHER PARTS OF THE BODY NOT DESIGNED FOR IT.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
© 2011 Universal Uclick www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THIS GUY'S DRIVING LIKE MY GRANDMA! HIT IT, FANG!
BRRRAPP
I WISH YOU'D GET YOUR HORN FIXED!
© 2011 Glenn McCoy/ Distributed by Universal Uclick
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

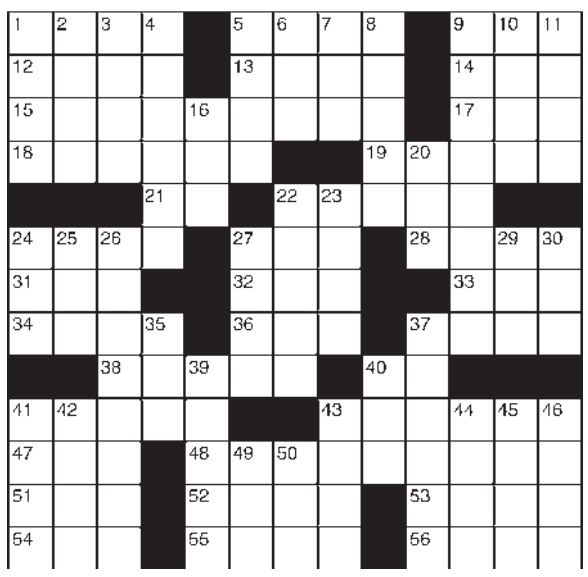
ACROSS
1 Weapons
5 Lovers' quarrel
9 Captain Kirk, to pals
12 Clay-rich soil
13 Unrestrained revelry
14 Actress Thurman
15 Prank victim, perhaps
17 Zero
18 Two trios
19 Occurrence
21 Symbol for mercury
22 Chocolate substitute
24 Smelling a bit off
27 Rowing need
28 Hide in the bushes
31 McKinley's first lady
32 Old televangelism initials
33 Space
34 "Simon —"
36 Author Umberto
37 Venomous vipers
38 Bungle
40 Ess preceder
41 Not just plump
43 In the wrong direction
47 Supporting
48 Mad Tea Party attendee
51 Remote
52 Prune, prewithering
53 Elec. co., e.g.
54 Pigpen
55 Referee's call
56 Authentic

DOWN
1 "Oh, woe"
2 Lasso
3 "You Bet Your Life" host
4 Workplace "under the spreading chestnut tree"
5 Cushy
6 Expert
7 Past
8 Tenth President
9 Some large beetles
10 "Here's my ante"
11 Brewery supply
16 Journey segment
20 Loudness (Abbr.)
22 Snag
23 Singer Guthrie
24 USO audience, often
25 Oklahoma city
26 Sheriff Andy Taylor's bailiwick
27 Oil cartel
29 Knock
30 Some duties for 24-Down
35 "Help!"
37 Camelot ruler
39 Dangle a carrot
40 Blonde shade
41 Kills, "Sopranos"-style
42 Gravy vessel
43 Pinnacle
44 Assessment
45 La Scala showstopper
46 Holler
49 Will Smith biopic
50 Pirates' potation

Solution time: 25 mins.

R	U	D	E	■	D	I	P	■	I	M	P	S
O	N	I	N	■	R	C	A	■	N	A	L	A
D	I	S	T	R	E	S	S	■	S	T	E	N
E	X	C	E	E	D	■	H	E	P	T	A	D
■	■	■	■	R	A	G	■	A	M	I	R	■
P	A	W	■	M	E	L	■	S	T	E	A	L
A	S	A	P	■	D	O	C	■	E	S	P	Y
C	H	I	L	E	■	L	A	W	■	S	E	E
■	■	T	E	N	D	■	B	O	B	■	■	■
A	B	R	A	D	E	■	A	N	E	M	I	A
H	O	E	S	■	F	O	R	T	R	E	S	S
E	L	S	E	■	O	R	E	■	R	A	N	T
M	O	S	S	■	C	O	T	■	A	L	T	O

Yesterday's answer 9-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Prince Harry, 27; Tom Hardy, 34; Tommy Lee Jones, 65; Oliver Stone, 65.

Happy Birthday: Don't let an unstable partnership cost you. Make decisions based on reality. You can get what you want if you put your feelings aside and do what is best for everyone. This is a year to budget wisely and downsize if necessary. Take control and discover that you are capable of more than you have given yourself credit for. Your numbers are 4, 10, 16, 23, 25, 37, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Mix business with pleasure and dazzle everyone with your social skills. Share your ideas and someone influential will collaborate with you. Expect a change in your relationships with others. Jealousy may cause someone to react poorly. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Embrace change with open arms; you will learn something new from the experience. A change of scenery will help you put your future in perspective. You will have a good eye when it comes to trendy items. Don't be afraid to be daring. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't overlook others' expectations. Satisfy everyone's needs and you will be able to take care of your own concerns without interference. Deal with institutions swiftly. Give out as little information as possible to avoid being detained. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Mix and mingle with friends, neighbors and peers. The more you discuss your plans, the easier it will be for others to see things your way. Don't let a problem with a loved one cause you to be nonproductive. Get serious and forge ahead. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): If there is somewhere you want to go or something you have to do, take the initiative, regardless of what anyone else says. Concentrate on your goals and refrain from meddling in others' affairs. You will work better on your own, so do your own thing. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Be practical. Don't let anyone talk you into doing something that may infringe on your security, stability or well-being. Listen and offer sound advice, but don't take over. Guide and motivate others, but get on with your own plans. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): An investment will pay off or lead to a new venture that could improve your current lifestyle. Helping an older person will result in rewards that you weren't expecting. Changes at work will improve your reputation and your status. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A false sense in a relationship must be identified and reevaluated. Motives must be based on realistic expectations. A partnership will be enhanced if you openly discuss roles and how they should be administered. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Change is upon you. You can stabilize your life if you are diligent regarding productivity. However, if you get caught up in personal melodrama, you'll miss a chance to get ahead. Your restless nature will be your downfall. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Show your true colors. Once everyone is aware of what you are striving for, it will be difficult to alter your direction. Think big within your budget. Use your masterful ability to get the most for your money by doing what you can on your own. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take care of issues quickly. The less you have hanging over your head, the easier it will be to take advantage of an opportunity to start something new. Work alone and keep your project small and simple until it's perfected. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your intuition will help you avoid getting involved in a troubled partnership. Keep an open mind and look into unusual interests to discover a talent you didn't know you had. Reunite with someone you used to know. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, perceptive and willing to fight. You appreciate beauty, kindness and generosity. You are confident and diligent.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5					
7			6	3	9			2
		8				7		
	1						6	9
	5						2	
2	3						8	
		6				3		
9			8	2	4			5
					7			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	9	7	4	2	1	8	5
4	1	5	8	6	9	2	7	3
2	7	8	5	1	3	9	6	4
7	8	3	6	9	4	5	1	2
1	5	4	3	2	7	8	9	6
9	2	6	1	8	5	3	4	7
3	4	1	9	5	6	7	2	8
8	6	7	2	3	1	4	5	9
5	9	2	4	7	8	6	3	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LILY THE BLACK BEAR **Solution: 7 letters**

D	E	S	U	C	O	F	A	M	I	L	Y	L	E	S
N	O	I	T	O	M	F	E	N	U	J	F	C	T	W
U	A	C	T	I	V	E	A	H	C	T	A	W	A	E
O	S	O	S	H	A	R	E	M	L	L	I	S	N	N
S	E	M	A	O	D	I	O	T	E	V	T	E	O	C
R	T	P	C	P	L	N	S	N	E	E	H	I	D	N
E	A	U	D	E	I	A	T	E	R	A	L	E	S	S
H	N	T	A	T	W	A	S	M	D	L	M	S	H	R
C	R	E	O	E	T	S	I	O	I	U	N	U	A	E
R	E	R	R	I	V	U	G	M	M	I	B	A	D	W
A	B	S	B	U	C	O	O	O	W	L	N	C	O	E
E	I	A	F	I	L	M	L	T	O	E	S	R	W	I
S	H	T	R	A	E	A	O	H	O	A	L	A	O	V
E	G	A	T	O	O	F	I	E	D	Ⓓ	Ⓞ	Ⓖ	Ⓕ	B
R	O	I	V	A	H	E	B	R	O	S	N	E	S	E

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Yesterday's Answer: The Notebook

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Date of Birth : March 10, 1970
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Rivera earns 600th save in Yankees win

AP

New York Yankees closer Mariano Rivera throws against the Seattle Mariners in the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011, in Seattle. The Yankees won, 3-2. It was Rivera's 600th save.

SEATTLE (AP)—Mariano Rivera earned his 600th save, moving within one of Trevor Hoffman's major league record, by closing out the New York Yankees' 3-2 win over the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday night.

Rivera entered with a one-run lead in the ninth and allowed just a one-out single to Ichiro Suzuki. He was retired when catcher Russell Martin caught Suzuki trying to steal second for the final out.

Robinson Cano provided the offense with a homer and two RBIs, while starter A.J. Burnett (10-11) won for the first time since Aug. 15 thanks to a season-high 11 strikeouts. New York stayed four games in front of second-place Boston in the AL East after the Red Sox thumped Toronto 18-6.

Rivera missed out on a save chance in the series opener when the Yankees battered nemesis Felix Hernandez in a 9-3 victory. But the Yankees' offense was kept in check Tuesday night by Charlie Furbush (3-9), who allowed just three runs and struck out six in 5 1-3 strong innings.

Nick Swisher's leadoff double in the sixth eventually led to Cano's fielder's choice that scored Swisher with the go-ahead run. Rafael Soriano and David Robertson worked the seventh and eighth innings to set the stage for Rivera's opportunity.

It was the 1,037th appearance of Rivera's career, but it almost didn't happen. Robertson labored through the eighth as Rivera started stretching out, giving up a leadoff single to Dustin Ackley and walking Justin Smoak(notes) with one-out. Robertson got Miguel Olivo swinging at a 3-2 pitch while the runners advanced. Robertson then fell behind Adam Kennedy 2-0 and issued an intentional walk to load the bases.

Red Sox 18, Blue Jays 6

In Boston, Tim Wakefield earned his 200th win on his eighth try, Dustin Pedroia hit two homers in Boston's highest-scoring game of the season and the Red Sox ended a five-game losing streak with an 18-6 rout of the Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday night.

The Red Sox needed the victory badly after their AL wild-card lead over Tampa Bay had dropped from nine games to three over the previous nine days. And the 45-year-old knuckleballer was eager to end the long wait—0-3 in seven outings since his last win July 24—to become the 108th pitcher with 200 wins.

Wakefield (7-6) went six innings and retired his final six batters. He left with a 6-5 lead.

The crowd at Fenway Park clapped and chanted "Wakefield! Wakefield!" as Junichi Tazawa pitched the ninth for Boston, which moved four games in front of the Rays. Tampa Bay lost at Baltimore.

Orioles 4, Rays 2

In Baltimore, Matt Wieters hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning and Baltimore blunted Tampa Bay's playoff push with a comeback victory.

Evan Longoria homered for the Rays, who had won five straight and eight of nine. Tampa Bay fell four games behind Boston in the wild-card race.

The Rays led 2-1 in the sixth before the Orioles rallied to snap a three-game skid.

With the score 2-all, Tampa Bay reliever J.P. Howell (2-3) retired the first two batters in the eighth before Vladimir Guerrero singled. Adam Jones entered as a pinch runner and Howell served up a 1-1 pitch that Wieters drove into the left-field seats.

Tigers 5, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Justin Verlander pitched seven strong innings to earn his major league-best 23rd win and Detroit blanked Chicago for its 11th consecutive victory.

Verlander (23-5) allowed six hits, struck out six and walked two while becoming the first Tigers pitcher since Hal Newhouser in 1946 to win 11 consecutive starts. He is the AL's first 23-game winner since Barry Zito in 2002.

Victor Martinez hit a three-run homer for the AL Central leaders, buoyed by their longest winning streak since September 1968.

Rangers 10, Athletics 4

In Arlington, David Murphy had a pair of solo home runs among his four hits and Josh Hamilton put AL West-leading Texas ahead to stay with his 20th homer in a victory over Cleveland.

Hamilton hit a scorching liner off Justin Masterson (11-10) into the right-center seats for a 4-2 lead in the fifth. Adrian Beltre extended his hitting streak to 17 games, matching a career high, when he led off the seventh with a home run.

Matt Harrison (12-9) gave up three runs while pitching into the sixth inning in his first start in nine days. Murphy scored four times.

Royals 4, Twins 0

In Kansas City, Bruce Chen pitched eight crisp innings and Alex Gordon homered to lead Kansas City over Minnesota.

Chen (11-7) allowed two singles, struck out eight and walked one. He was 0-2 with a 7.94 ERA in his previous two starts.

Louis Coleman yielded a single to Joe Mauer while finishing the Royals' sixth shutout of the season.

Mike Moustakas also went deep for Kansas City, which had with 12 hits. Gordon went 3 for 5 and drove in two runs.

Angels 6, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Howie Kendrick homered twice, Erick Aybar scored the go-ahead run on a wild throw home in the seventh inning and the Los Angeles Angels picked up a needed and rare win at the Oakland Coliseum, beating the Athletics 6-3 on Tuesday night.

Maicer Izturis added two hits and an RBI and Aybar also had two hits for the Angels, who snapped a two-game losing streak.

Los Angeles remains three games behind division-leading Texas, which beat Cleveland earlier in the day.

Astros 5, Phillies 2

In Houston, Clint Barmes hit a three-run homer and J.A. Happ pitched six solid innings against his former team as the Houston Astros beat Philadelphia 5-2 on Tuesday night, preventing the Phillies from wrapping up a playoff spot.

The Phillies needed a win over Houston or a loss by St. Louis to clinch at least a wild-card berth. But the NL East leaders will have to wait to secure their place in the postseason after the Cardinals beat the Pirates 6-4 on Tuesday night.

Philadelphia starter Cole Hamels (14-8) fell to 0-3 in his last five starts against the Astros after going 3-0 in his first four career starts against them.

Braves 7, Marlins 1

In Atlanta, Brian McCann and Dan Uggla(notes) each hit a three-run homer and the Atlanta Braves ended their longest losing streak of the season at four games.

The Braves, whose lead over St. Louis in the NL wild-card standings is down to 4 1/2 games, held a private meeting before the game in hopes of shaking things up.

It finally worked in the sixth. Uggla drew a one-out walk from Brad Hand (1-7), Matt Diaz singled to right and McCann came through with a towering shot over the center-field wall for his 24th homer.

Cardinals 6, Pirates 4

In Pittsburgh, Nick Punto hit a go-ahead double in the ninth inning and the surging St. Louis Cardinals overcame three errors by first baseman Albert Pujols.

Trying to stay in the wild card and NL Central races, the Cardinals won for the sixth time in seven games.

The loss dropped the Pirates to 67-81. In a season that once had so much hope, they are stuck with a non-winning season for the 19th straight year.

Nationals 3, Mets 2

In New York, Craig Stammen got his first win and hit in more than a year, scoring the go-ahead run on Ryan Zimmerman's seventh-inning single.

Stammen (1-1) entered in the sixth with two on, then got three straight outs to escape the trouble. Stammen then singled off Dale Thayer (0-2) leading off seventh—a .217 hitter coming in, Stammen had not gotten a hit since July 30 last year.

Ian Desmond singled him to second with one out, Rick Ankiel advanced Stammen by grounding into a forceout against Tim Bydak, and Zimmerman lined a single to left off Bobby Parnell.

Reds 2, Cubs 1

In Cincinnati, Brandon Phillips homered again, hitting a leadoff shot that helped Mike Leake and Cincinnati end a three-game losing streak.

Phillips homered for the third time in two games. He has 15 home runs this year.

Leake (12-9) allowed six hits and two walks over eight innings in what is expected to be his final start of the season. The Reds plan to shut him down in an effort to prevent arm problems.

Leake pitched a career-high nine innings in his previous start, giving up three hits against the Cubs at Wrigley Field.

Diamondbacks 5, Dodgers 4

In Los Angeles, Chris Young scored the go-ahead run on a bases-loaded walk in the 10th inning, lifting the NL West-leading Arizona Diamondbacks to a 5-4 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday night.

Gerardo Parra sparked the Diamondbacks with a tying homer off Hong-Chih Kuo with two out in the seventh, then a leadoff single in the 10th.

After Aaron Hill was forced out and Justin Upton struck out, Javy Guerra (2-1) issued consecutive walks to Miguel Montero, Paul Goldschmidt and Young, helping Arizona win its second in a row and sixth in seven games.

Brewers 2, Rockies 1

In Milwaukee, Ryan Braun said he played the worst 10 innings of the season. Good thing it went 11.

Braun homered leading off the 11th and the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Rockies 2-1 on Tuesday night to win their sixth straight at home over Colorado.

"Tonight was not a pretty game, we didn't play well," Braun said. "It was nice to find a way a win. I don't think we really deserved that game. But good teams find a way to win games they shouldn't sometimes."

Prince Fielder also went deep for Milwaukee, which remained 6 1/2 games ahead of second-place St. Louis in the NL Central with 13 to play.

"It's close to the end, we want to hurry up and get it done if we can," Fielder said. "You can't control what the Cardinals do. We can only control what we can do."

Giants 3, Padres 2

In San Francisco, Mark DeRosa hit a game-ending RBI single off second baseman Orlando Hudson's glove in the 12th inning, giving the San Francisco Giants a 3-2 victory over the San Diego Padres on Tuesday night.

DeRosa's two-out drive against Brad Bauch (0-2) just evaded Hudson, allowing Cody Ross to score from the third.

Pablo Sandoval and Justin Christian also drove in a run for the Giants, who have won three straight. Ramon Ramirez (3-3) pitched a scoreless inning to get the win.

Jason Bartlett had two RBIs for the Padres, who have lost five of six.

NBA season in trouble as talks fail to progress

NEW YORK (AP) -- The long looks on players' faces and the anger in Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver's voice made it obvious: There was no progress Tuesday in talks to end the NBA lockout.

And with less than three weeks until training camps, the latest setback may be a tough one.

"I think coming out of today, obviously because of the calendar, we can't come out of here feeling as though training camps and the season is going to start on time at this point," players' association president Derek Fisher of the Lakers said.

Still divided over the salary cap structure, owners and players decided to pass on talking again Wednesday, and no further meetings are scheduled at this point.

"Well, we did not have a great day, I think it's fair to say that," Commissioner David Stern said. "On the other hand, we did say that it is our collective task to decide what we want on the one hand on each side, and two, what each side needs if we choose to work ourselves in such a way as to have the season start on time. That's still our goal."

Training camps have been expected to open Oct. 3 and the regular season's opening night is scheduled for Nov. 1.

"We're a bit pessimistic and discouraged at one, the ability to start on time, and we're not so sure that there may not be further damages or delay trying to get the season started," union executive director Billy Hunter said. "The owners are not inclined at this stage to move off the position where they've anchored themselves."

Stern and Silver countered that the union insisted the current soft cap system remain exactly as it is before they would agree to discuss anything else.

"Frankly, we're having trouble understanding why the label of a hard cap is what's breaking apart these negotiations right now, and that's what we discussed for a long time as a committee and then discussed together with the players," said Silver, his voice rising as he spoke.

After three meetings among small groups in the last two weeks, full bargaining committees returned to the table Tuesday. They could also have met Wednesday, but Stern said it was best the two sides step away and meet with their own membership groups on Thursday.

Though owners are seeking an overhaul of the league's financial system after saying they lost $300 million last season and hundreds of millions more in each year of the previous collective bargaining agreement, the salary cap appears to have emerged as the biggest obstacle to a new deal.

The current system allows teams to exceed the ceiling through the use of various exceptions if they are willing to pay a luxury tax, giving big-market teams such as the Lakers - who can take on added payroll - an advantage over the little guys.

But Hunter said a hard cap is "highly untenable," referring to it as a "blood issue" to the players. He added the players were prepared to make a "significant" financial move, but they would only agree to give on dollars if they got a win on the system.

"For us, if we give on one, we have to have the other. It can't be just a total capitulation," he said.

The league said players wanted owners to guarantee they would concede on the cap as a condition of talking about anything further, but Stern said "all of the owners were completely unified in the view that we needed a system that at the end of the day allowed 30 teams to compete."

Added Silver: "That should be the goal of both the owners and the players in this negotiation, not to come in and say that that's off the table, and we won't discuss it and it's a precondition of us making an economic move."

The recent meetings had been cordial, sparking hopes that progress was being made. Instead, Fisher and Hunter sat in the middle of a row of players who looked dejected, and now may have to wonder if they need to look harder at finding a job overseas.

A sign of how the day went: Owners spent the majority of about five hours behind closed doors caucusing among themselves.

"We can't find a place with the league and our owners where we can reach a deal sooner rather than later," Fisher said.

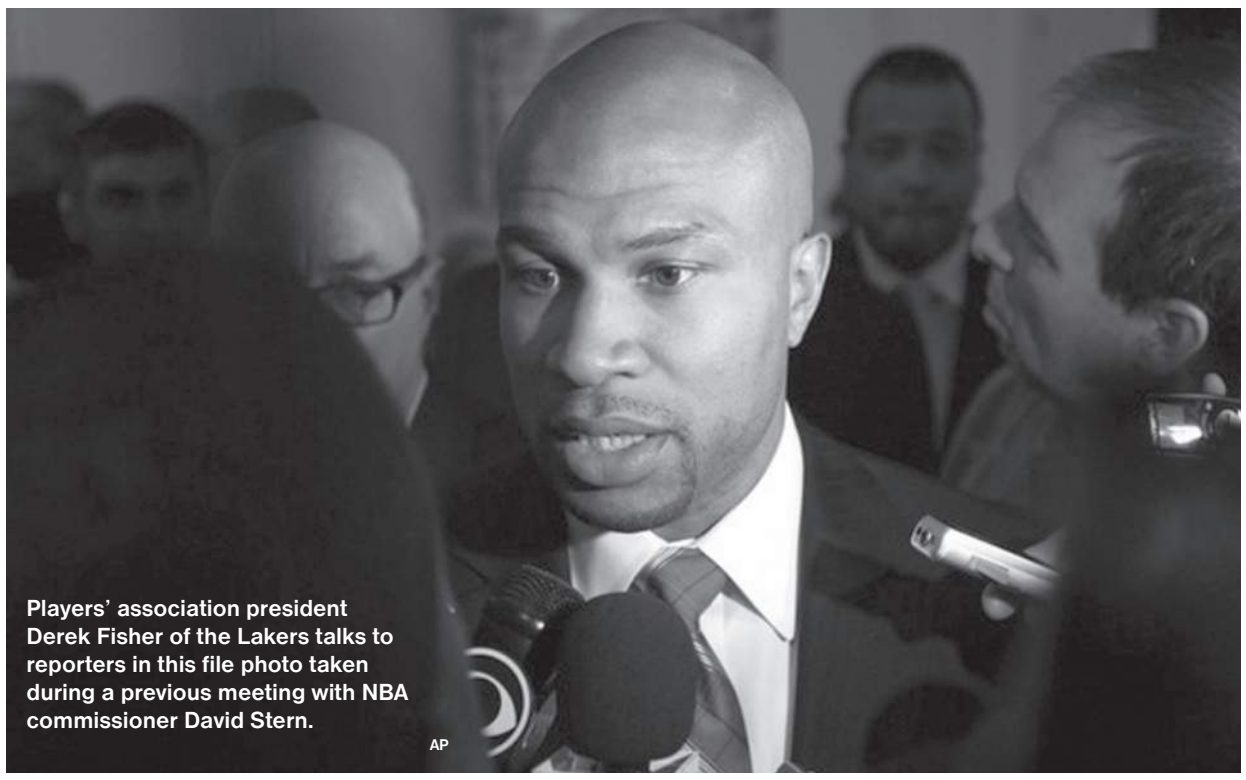
Besides the cap, the other main issue remains the division of revenues. Players were guaranteed 57 percent under the old deal and had offered to lower that to 54.3 percent before owners locked them out on July 1. They say the league's proposal would have them a percentage in the 40s, and Hunter said if the owners are serious about a hard cap, he'll give it to them if players get 65 percent.

Owners are scheduled to meet Thursday in Dallas, and Stern again said there won't be any decisions to cancel training camps at that session. But that would have to come sometime later this month without a deal. The opening of camps was postponed on Sept. 24 during the 1998 lockout, which reduced the season to 50 games.

The union will update players Thursday in Las Vegas, and Fisher said he will tell them that "the way it looks right now we may not start on time." He stressed that players are still committed to the process and "not walking away from the table," but Hunter repeated that they "have instructed us that they're prepared to sit out" rather than accept owners' current proposals.

Progress should come eventually over finances. Settling the cap issue could take longer.

"We know how to negotiate over dollars when the time comes, but they so conditioned any discussion on our acceptance of the status quo, which sees a team like the Lakers with well over $100 million in payroll and Sacramento at 45," Stern said. "That's not an acceptable alternative for us. That can't be the outcome that we agree to."



Players' association president Derek Fisher of the Lakers talks to reporters in this file photo taken during a previous meeting with NBA commissioner David Stern.

AP

Eyeing a new racket, Djokovic wants to try acting

NEW YORK (AP) -- Novak Djokovic wants more.

More of everything, on the tennis court and off.

He's ranked No. 1 and is 64-2 in 2011, and sees room for improvement.

He won three of the four Grand Slam titles this year - at the Australian Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open - and is talking about adding to his collection.

"There is a lot more to prove, a lot more tournaments to win," Djokovic told reporters at the Empire State Building on Tuesday, a day after he beat Rafael Nadal in the final at Flushing Meadows.

And then there's this: Djokovic gained plenty of attention for his spot-on impersonations of other players (Nadal, Andy Roddick and Maria Sharapova, among others), and now he wants to pursue acting.

Really, Novak? An actor?

"Yeah. Why not? I might do something if I have time soon. And I would like to. I just think show business is something that attracts me, that I really like watching, that I like being a part of. It's part of my personality," Djokovic said after making the rounds to various morning talk shows with a couple of days' worth of stubble on his face and the benefit of about three hours' worth of sleep.

The 24-year-old from Serbia didn't provide details or indicate whether he'd like to wind up on TV or in a movie; he did say he already has a couple of offers to consider.

"This the way I see things off the court. ... If I embrace them, if I accept them as something that can give me energy, that can make me happy, then it all goes in a positive direction," Djokovic said. "Or vice versa: You can say, 'Oh, look this is taking my attention off tennis. This is negative.' It just depends the way you look at it, and I try always to look at it in a positive way."

Just in case anyone might wonder how focused Djokovic is on his future as a thespian, he was sure to note: "I will not interfere that with my professional life."

The guy is doing pretty well at his day job, putting together what seven-time major champion John McEnroe called "the greatest year in the history of our sport, there's no doubt about it."

McEnroe, by the way, went 82-3 in 1984.

As impressive as Djokovic's overall record is, what's even more indicative of exactly how well he's playing is that he is 10-1 against Nadal and Roger Federer this season.

He overcame a two-set deficit, then two match points at 5-3, 40-15 in the fifth, to eliminate Federer in the U.S. Open semifinals Saturday, before dominating Nadal for most of the 4 hours, 10 minutes it took to complete their riveting 6-2, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-1 final. It's only the second time someone beat Federer and Nadal at the same Grand Slam tournament.

Against Nadal, Djokovic was treated by a trainer after the third set and twice more during the fourth for pain in a muscle between his ribs, an aching back and leg cramps.

"To be honest, there was doubts in my mind after the third set," he said Tuesday, "because physically I wasn't there. I wasn't fresh."

His serve speeds dropped from around 120 mph to the 90s - "quite weak," Djokovic called it - during the fourth set, which actually might have thrown off Nadal.

"I guess he was a little confused as well—that's what I felt - on his return games because he was expecting the ball to come faster," Djokovic explained.

Timberwolves pick Adelman as new coach

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves have announced that they are hiring Rick Adelman as their next coach.

News of Adelman's deal first came out Monday, and the Timberwolves made the official announcement Tuesday morning. An introductory news conference will be held once the contract is signed, but scheduling conflicts mean that is unlikely to happen this week.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Adelman is 945-616 in 20 seasons as coach of the Trail Blazers, Kings, Warriors and Rockets. He is eighth on the NBA's career wins list and parted ways with the Rockets in April.

The 65-year-old Adelman replaces Kurt Rambis. He becomes the 10th head coach in franchise history.

"Houston, we have a coach," All-Star forward Kevin Love tweeted Monday, kicking off the welcoming festivities for an accomplished coach who will be expected to bring credibility and intensity back to a team that has severely lacked both in recent seasons.

He'll have his work cut out for him at his latest, and perhaps final, stop.

The Timberwolves have won just 32 games over president of basketball operations David Kahn's first two seasons, including an NBA-worst 17-65 record last year.

With the Timberwolves reeling and struggling to draw fans ever since they traded Kevin Garnett to Boston in 2007, Kahn and owner Glen Taylor set out to make a statement after Kahn's drawn-out firing of Rambis drew criticism.

In addition to Adelman, the Wolves interviewed Don Nelson, Sam Mitchell, Bernie Bickerstaff, Mike Woodson, Terry Porter and Larry Brown in the kind of deliberate process that has become the hallmark of Kahn's short tenure.

And even though many around the league expected Adelman to take another year off, wait for the lockout to be resolved and make a run at a team with more veterans that is considered closer to contending for a title, the Wolves managed to convince him to join them.

Adelman came to Minnesota for interviews twice in about a week's time in August, with Taylor taking the lead on the final meeting to try to lock the deal down.

In landing Adelman, the Timberwolves get a coach who has a history of playing the kind of free-flowing, up-tempo system that Kahn so desperately wants in Minnesota. Kahn clashed with Rambis over the direction of the offense.

Adelman led the Blazers to the NBA finals in 1990 and 1992, and in his 18 full seasons as a head coach he has presided over a team with a losing record just twice.

In Minnesota, Adelman inherits a promising roster that includes Love, No. 2 pick Derrick Williams and Spanish point guard Ricky Rubio.

Adelman has a long history with Love, which may have played a role in accepting a position with a team that hasn't made the playoffs since 2004.

MAFEA/RNV finally wins, edges SAFSWO/Ebisuya

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MAFEA/RNV gained its first win in the last game in the UFO Inter-Organization Masters Basketball Docomo Pacific Cup 2011 after outclassing SAFSWO/Ebisuya, 68-63, on Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

MAFEA finished the round-robin competition with a 1-3 record for fourth place in the team standings, while SAFSWO/Ebisuya was last with a dismal 0-4 mark. Despite occupying the last two spots in the masters field, SAFSWO/Ebisuya and MAFEA still made it to the playoffs, joining third placer VisMinda/PIAHI (3-1) and MDX/Armatech (3-1).

MAFEA/RNV's Ed Cosino tries to keep the ball away from two SAFSWO/Ebisuya defenders during the fourth quarter of their game in the masters division of the UFO Docomo Cup on Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Defending champion Cabalen/Wings Travel also had a 3-1 record, but won the tiebreak and the bye in the first round of the playoffs after getting the highest goal average among the three tied teams. Cabalen is now in the semifinals, while the four remaining squad will battle for the three remaining slots.

MAFEA avoided the last seeding in the playoffs after playing steady in the last 2:24 of the game.

The opposing teams were pretty even, as there were several lead changes and neither squad went ahead by double digits. SAFSWO/Ebisuya had the lead for the last time at the 59-58 count, with less than three minutes left on the clock.

Elmer Pineda then canned an undergoal stab and drew a foul to bring MAFEA back in the driver's seat. He muffed the bonus shot, but SAFSWO/Ebisuya also faltered on its offensive set, paving the way for an Ed Cosino' fastbreak layup. SAFSWO/Ebisuya missed anew on the other end and MAFEA answered with Joselino Canoy's jumper that gave his team a 64-59 advantage, 1:10 to go in the match.

SAFSWO/Ebisuya scored four quick points to threaten, 64-65, with Mike Surima making two free throws off an unsportsmanlike foul from Canoy and a layup, 43 seconds left in the game.

Canoy then made up for his infraction with another short jumper and MAFEA sealed the win when Pineda stole the ball from Surima and fed De La Torre at the baseline for a layup. Dela Torre also drew a foul, but muffed the extra charity, keeping MAFEA's lead to five, 68-63. A desperation trey from Jacob Rio hit nothing but air, foiling SAFSWO/Ebisuya's bid for a win in the last game in the regular season.

Cosino paced MAFEA with 20 points, while Pineda and Canoy combined for 26. Canoy hit eight of his total points in the fourth quarter, providing MAFEA the needed baskets to edge SAFSWO/Ebisuya.

MAFEA/RNV 68 – Cosino 20, Pineda 14, Canoy 12, Bicera 10, De La Torre 6, Gunrey 4, Sevilla 1.

SAFSWO/Ebisuya 63 – Surima 23, Malicdem 12, Buniag 7, Mateo 5, Echavez 4, Bucalig 4, Conti 4, Rio 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-10, 19-23, 45-45, 68-63.

HOOPS

From Page 28

NMBA/Mixed Blood with its 1-5 record is in danger of not making it to the next phase of the Bud Cup. NMBA has gained its lone win so far against MDX/Blue Haus (0-6) and must prevail in its last game over MAFEA Ali'i Konflikt this Sunday and pray that Cavite/Andok's (1-5) will lose against MDX/Blue Haus to claim the last playoff seat. If MDX wins and NMBA loses, there could be a three-way tie for the final playoff berth.

Mixed Blood almost gave away the win to the Hoops via forfeit, as when the first buzzer sounded, the latter had only three players at the venue. With only four minutes left in the 15-minute forfeiture time, NMBA managed to have six players, so referees already decided to start the match.

With NMBA spending the warm-up time calling for other players instead of doing pre-game drills, it got off to a sluggish start. Mixed Blood only scored three field goals and made 10 points.

In contrast, UPAA had a smooth sailing with James Villacrusis leading the cruise with his seven points, giving the Hoops an early double-digit lead, 22-10.

Randy Mungcal, who was held to a free throw in the opening period, got to his rhythm in the second canto, exploding for 14 points to slice the Hoops' lead to single digit at the break, 32-40.

After a so-so game in the second period, the Hoops went back to work in the third period with Dave Sablan nailing eight points and four of his teammates also making it to the scoreboard. UPAA outgunned NMBA in the third quarter, 22-9, to bring the lead back to double figures, 62-41, entering the final canto. Only Mungcal logged more than two points for NMBA in the third.

Kelvin Fitial, who missed the first three quarters of the match, made his presence felt in the fourth, canning back-to-back triples, as the Hoops had cruise control in the payoff canto.

NMBA failed to make headway in the fourth period, as Mungcal was held without a field goal and earned all his six points from the foul line.

Sablan was again at the forefront of the Hoops' lopsided win, scoring 23 points, while Villacrusis chipped in 15. UPAA has been unbeaten for over a month now after absorbing its lone loss in the league at the hands of Bayani/Mobil, 81-95, last Aug. 6.

Mungcal led NMBA's losing cause with his 27 markers.

UPAA/Hoopaholics 82 – D. Sablan 23, Villacrusis 15, Villagomez 10, Cabrera 8, Fitial 6, Mendez 5, J. Sablan 4, Diaz 3, Palacios 2, Lee 2.

NMBA/Mixed Blood 63 – Mungcal 27, Timbal 14, Detera 6, Acosta 6, Roque 4, Valiente 4, Montes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-10, 40-32, 62-41, 82-63.

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 28

Red Team, also on Monday. If Shirley's A loses and IT&E Awesome wins, there would be a tie for first place and the deadlock will be resolved via the total goals scored in the two round-robin league.

IT&E Awesome foiled an all-Shirley teams duel for the women's crown after limiting Shirley's B to one goal. Alexa Vargas scored Shirley's B's lone goal in the second half.

Connie Camacho had four goals for IT&E Awesome, while Michelle Masga and Carrie Schuler added two and one, respectively.

Shirley's A was also unstoppable on offense in its game against Kulet's Team with Irish Pagarao leading the attack with five goals. Jeraldine Castillo had a hat-trick, while Angie Ito contributed one goal. Corina Suda lit up the scoreboard for Kulet's Team in the second half.

MEN'S
Mellow Yellow 5, Korean Futsal 1

In the first match of the night, Mellow Yellow stunned Korean Futsal Team, 5-1.

Mellow Yellow improved to a 3-9-1 record with only one game left in its schedule, while Korean Futsal also has one more game left, but is stuck at 6-5-2 slate.

Woo Ho Jin scored two goals in his penultimate game, while Youn g Sin Lim, Suriya Mongkhonat, and Biswo Shrestha added one goal each. Jin Koo Cho made the lone goal for Korean Futsal.

Red Inter 5, Go Green 1

In the other men's game, Red Inter downed Go Green, 5-1.

Red Inter now has an 8-3-2 record for a share of second spot with Docomo. Wild Bill's (12-1-0) is at the top spot and has already secured the men's title.

Matt Holley drilled a pair of goals in Red Inter's eighth win, while Arkie Reusora, Edwin Cruz, and Dale Roberts also scored.

Jack Phan gave Go Green its only goal in the game and his team fell to a 4-6-3 card.

ALVAREZ

From Page 28

with the help of his coaches and trainers.

Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez said they may consider invitations from PXC, but believes the three fighters need more bouts and time to prepare for tougher competitions.

"As the team manager and head coach, it is my responsibility along with my coaching staff to hone and fine tune our fighters' skills before sending them to the next level. If an offer comes our way we reserve the right to accept or decline the offer based on the experience, win-loss record, and the overall quality of their past opponents," Cuki Alvarez said.

"I still feel that all three fighters would need a couple more solid matches before sending them to PXC. Not that they aren't able of competing at that level, but taking into mind that experience speaks volumes and the more fights my guys have, the more acclimatized they will be in the cage. At the same time, it is important to set them up with tough/experienced opponents to gauge their performances," he added.

Meanwhile, Cuki Alvarez also shared a list of fighters who impressed his own talent scouts. These include Tinian's Regino Mundo of Zeng Zung and Zalaka's Jacob "One Blow" Ilo and Joe "Da Combo" Duenas.

Mundo is a three-time undefeated K-1 kick boxer and scouts would like to see him graduate to Trench Warz against a pro-level K-1 opponent. Ilo is also a three-time undefeated K-1 kick boxer and scouts would like to see him have a crack at MMA.

Joe Duenas is undefeated in three MMA bouts and his most recent win came against one of Saipan's most experienced fighters, "Tabi" Jay Muna of the Predator Combat Team. Duenas took out Muna so easily that scouts think he will surely have a bright future in the sport.

Notably, Josh Duenas was also included on this list and after being undefeated in two fights, he will most likely be offered a chance to compete in Trench Warz event.

BLAZERS

From Page 28

to 14 at halftime, 36-22.

Proa's Josephus Aguilar provided the bulk of his team's offense with eight markers in the first half.

The pace of the match slowed down after the break, but the Blazers still maintained a healthy 44-29 margin heading into the final period.

Proa managed a couple of treys to start the fourth quarter, but could not climb out of the hole, absorbing its third loss in four matches.

Torres led all scorers with 20 points, while Jason Palacios turned in a team-high 12 in the loss.

Action in the youth caging will continue tomorrow with a doubleheader. The second-ranked Ol'Aces (3-1) take on Kagman (1-2) at 5pm, while Proa looks to bounce back against Rollers 1 (1-4) at 6pm.

For the U15 division games this Saturday, RBC's 670 Rollers face the Junior Ol'Aces at 11am, while RBC/Micronesian Brokers, Inc. duels sister-team Angels at 12:30pm. Then the last game of the day at 2pm will feature the two female teams in the field, as the Party Rockers square off against Kunoichi.

CK Blazers 63 – Torres 20, Aulerio 15, Kaipat 14, Benavente 6, Eughbanks 4, Tenorio 2, Camacho 2.

NMC Proa - Palacios 12, Aguilar 10, Samson 9, G. Habijan 6, Cruzat 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-6, 36-22, 44-29, 63-39.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	90	57	.612	–
Boston	86	61	.585	4
Tampa Bay	82	65	.558	8
Toronto	74	74	.500	16 1/2
Baltimore	59	88	.401	31

Central Division

Detroit	86	62	.581	–
Chicago	73	74	.497	12 1/2
Cleveland	72	73	.497	12 1/2
Kansas City	63	86	.423	23 1/2
Minnesota	59	88	.401	26 1/2

West Division

Texas	84	64	.568	–
Los Angeles	81	67	.547	3
Oakland	67	81	.453	17
Seattle	61	87	.412	23

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	94	51	.648	–
Atlanta	85	64	.570	11
New York	71	77	.480	24 1/2
Washington	69	77	.473	25 1/2
Florida	67	80	.456	28

Central Division

Milwaukee	87	62	.584	–
St. Louis	80	68	.541	6 1/2
Cincinnati	72	76	.486	14 1/2
Pittsburgh	67	81	.453	19 1/2
Chicago	65	83	.439	21 1/2
Houston	51	97	.345	35 1/2

West Division

Arizona	87	62	.584	–
San Francisco	78	70	.527	8 1/2
Los Angeles	72	75	.490	14
Colorado	69	78	.469	17
San Diego	63	86	.423	24

Yesterday's Games

Baltimore 4, Tampa Bay 2
Boston 18, Toronto 6
Texas 10, Cleveland 4
Detroit 5, Chicago White Sox 0
Kansas City 4, Minnesota 0
L.A. Angels 6, Oakland 3
N.Y. Yankees 3, Seattle 2
St. Louis 6, Pittsburgh 4
Cincinnati 2, Chicago Cubs 1
Atlanta 7, Florida 1
Washington 3, N.Y. Mets 2
Houston 5, Philadelphia 2
Milwaukee 2, Colorado 1, 11 innings
Arizona 5, L.A. Dodgers 4, 10 innings
San Francisco 3, San Diego 2, 12 innings

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI Baseball Team Wins in 2011 Pacific Games

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Eric Tenorio wears his gold medal, as he exits the Saipan International Airport arrival area early Monday morning.

CNMI Baseball Team manager Tony Rogolifoi gestures after winning over Palau in the semifinals in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

Members of the CNMI Baseball Team join other athletes from the Commonwealth and volunteers and officials of the 2011 Pacific Games for a group photo.

The awarding ceremony shows the CNMI flag flanked by Guam's, left, and Palau's after the Commonwealth sluggers won in the finals against Guam, 8-4.

Above, Members of the CNMI Baseball Team flash the No. 1 sign after ruling the 2011 Pacific Games.

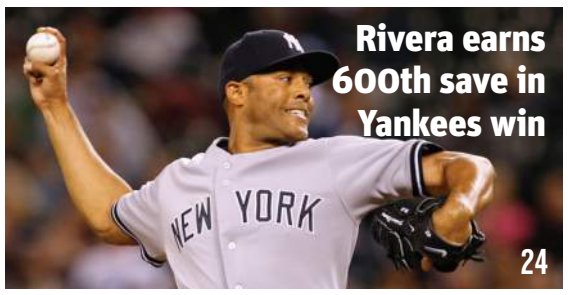
CNMI Baseball Team manager Tony Rogolifoi, second row left, and his wards watch a game at the Robinson Baseball Field in Mont-Dore, New Caledonia.

CNMI third baseball Juan Maratita smiles as he answers questions from KSPN 2 news director Bob Coldeen.

Tyrone Omar, left, and Jesus Iguel look for their family members after arriving early Monday morning from New Caledonia.

Saipan Major League president Rose Igitol is all smiles as family and friends greeted her and the CNMI Baseball Team at the arrival area of Saipan International Airport after a successful campaign in the 2011 Pacific Games.

Pitchers Joshua Jones, front, and Elton Santos wear their gold medals upon arrival at the Saipan International Airport.



Saipan Tribune
Sports

UPAA/Docomo Hoopaholics' James Villacrusis goes up for a fastbreak layup during the first quarter of their game against NMBA/Mixed Blood in the UFO Bud Cup league on Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hoops notch fifth straight victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The UPAA/Docomo Hoopaholics extended their winning streak to five, following an 82-63 demolition of NMBA/Mixed Blood in the UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League 2011 Bud Cup on Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

The Hoops now have a 6-1 record for second place in the team standings and will play Proa (5-0) in their last game in the round-robin regular season with the winner likely to draw a bye in the first round of the playoffs.

Only the Top 7 teams will make it to the next round with the second to seventh ranked squads playing in the single-elimination playoffs and the winners joining the No. 1 squad in the Final Four.

See HOOPS on Page 26

Futsal: Shirley's A, IT&E Awesome boost title bids

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The battle for the women's championship in the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League is now down to two teams.

Shirley's A and IT&E Awesome strengthened their bids for the women's title after recording separate wins on Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex. Shirley's A played in the first women's game and clobbered Kulet's Team, 9-1, while IT&E Awesome saw action in the nightcap and topped Shirley's B, 7-1.

Only one win separates the Top 2 teams with Shirley's A holding an 11-2-0 win-loss-draw record and IT&E Awesome having a 10-2-1 card. Shirley's A plays sister team Shirley's B on Monday and a win will ensure the former the women's championship. IT&E Awesome's last game will be against

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Red Inter's Matt Holley uses his body to keep the ball, while Go Green's Jack Phan looks on during the men's futsal league game on Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Alvarez leads Pacific Xtreme Combat hopefuls

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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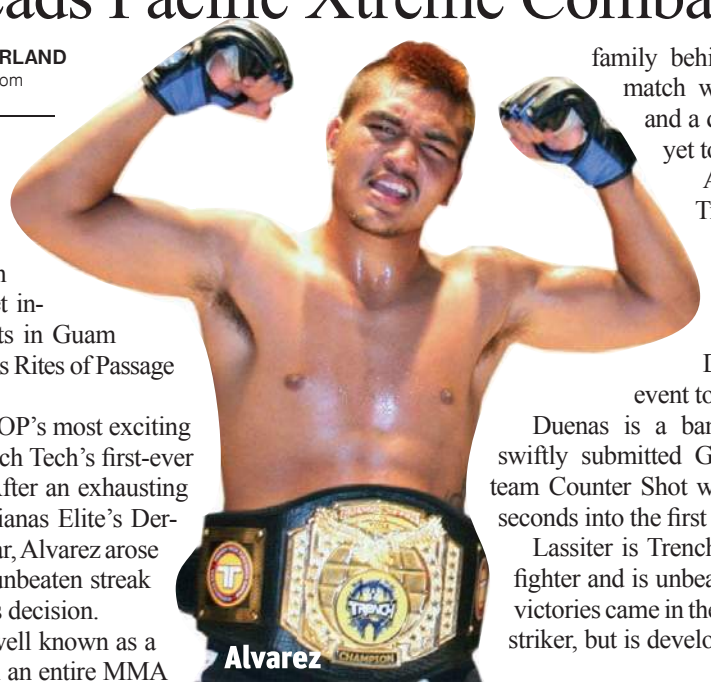
REPORTER


Alvarez

Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez is among the three Trench Tech fighters who may get invites in future PXC events in Guam after a big win in last week's Rites of Passage 11: Onra.

Alvarez triumphed in ROP's most exciting fight of the night and Trench Tech's first-ever featherweight title bout. After an exhausting five-round bout with Marianas Elite's Derrick "El'Peligro" Rangamar, Alvarez arose victorious, extending his unbeaten streak to seven with a unanimous decision.

On Saipan, Alvarez is well known as a very technical fighter with an entire MMA family behind him. He enters every match with a specific game plan and a diligent work ethic that has yet to let him down.

Alvarez, along with fellow Trench Tech fighters Josh "Chaos" Duenas and Mylo "AlabaMMA" Lassiter left good impressions on special guest referee Tony Deangelo, who attended the event to scout for talents, too.

Duenas is a bantamweight (135-lbs) and swiftly submitted Guam's Kevin Miranda of team Counter Shot with a triangle hold just 35 seconds into the first round.

Lassiter is Trench Tech's lone heavyweight fighter and is unbeaten in three fights. All his victories came in the first round. He is a natural striker, but is developing a savvy ground game

See ALVAREZ on Page 26

Blazers blast Proa in Rotary caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The CK Blazers scorched NMC Proa, 63-39, during their U19 division game in the 2011 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League last Monday at the TSL Sports Complex.

The win improved the Blazers' card to 2-4, while Proa (1-3) has yet to win a game on the court, as its lone victory came via forfeit.

The Blazers got right to work after the tip and amassed a 19-6 lead in the opening eight minutes. Brandon Aulerio led the charge with nine points and received a pair of three-pointers from Jody Kaipat.

Then Patrick Torres caught fire with a string of 11 points in the second quarter to help the Blazers stretch the lead

See BLAZERS on Page 26